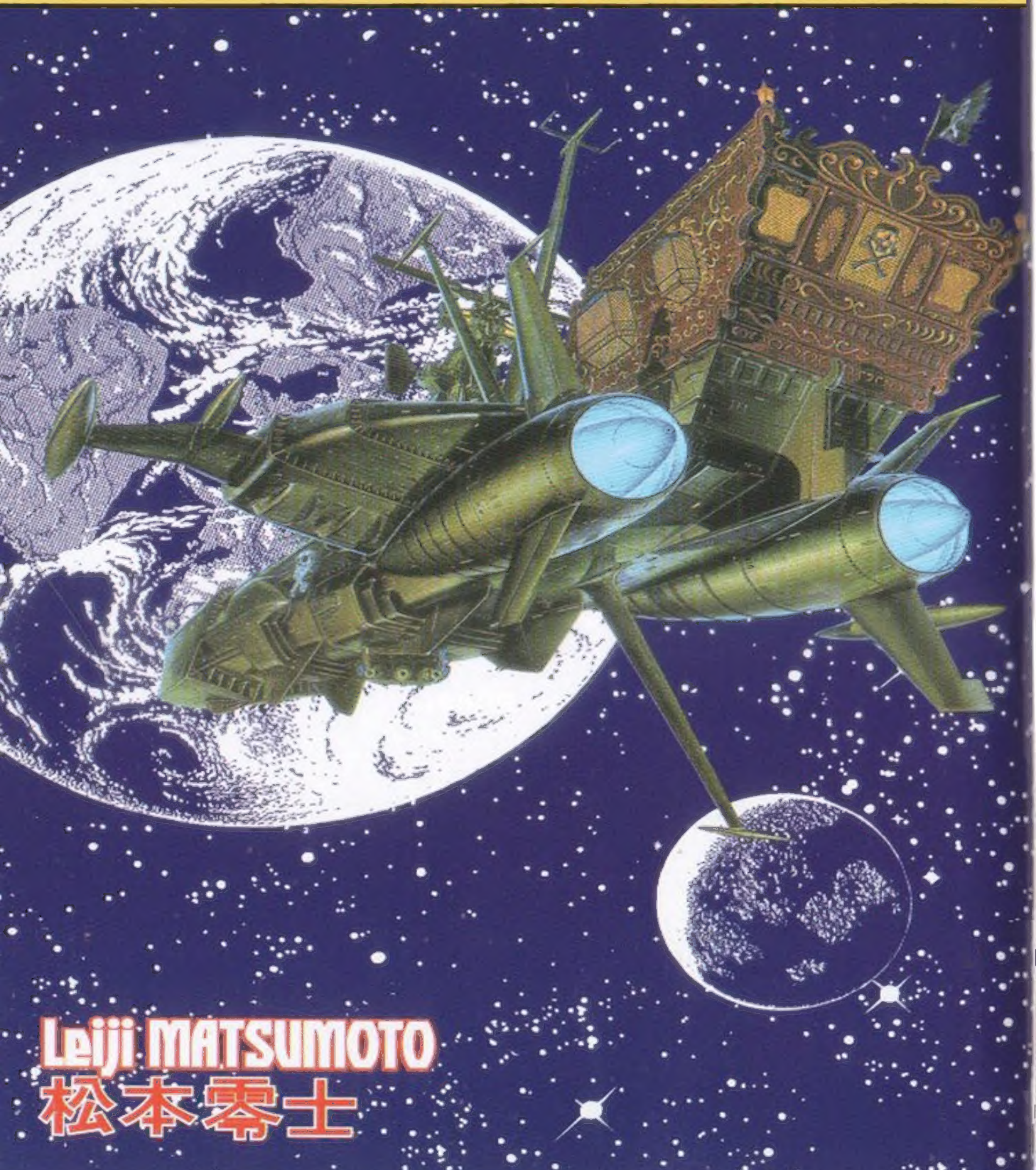
CREATED BY LEIJI MATSUMOTO
BASED ON THE OPERA CYCLE BY RICHARD WAGNER

Der Ring des Nibelungen

GÖTTERDAMMERUNG



Leiji MATSUMOTO
松本零士

DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN IV

GREAT HARLOCK

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG

Leiji Matsumoto

DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN

L.Matsumoto

SHINCHOSHA

A manga series originally
inspred by
Der Ring Des Nibelungen,
an opera in four parts
composed by Richard Wagner

(1813 – 1883)

Volumes 1 – 8
translated and adapted
by Richard E. Mandel
from the French language version
released by Kana Press

Volumes 9 – 10
re-edited and adapted
by Richard E. Mandel
from the original English release
on the old Shinchosa web site
(www.shinchosa.co.jp)

Introduction by Richard Mandel

To my knowledge, this is the first time that anyone has attempted to bring Leiji Matsumoto's *Harlock Saga* manga series to English speaking audiences. It is certainly the largest and longest manga translation project I have ever undertaken myself.

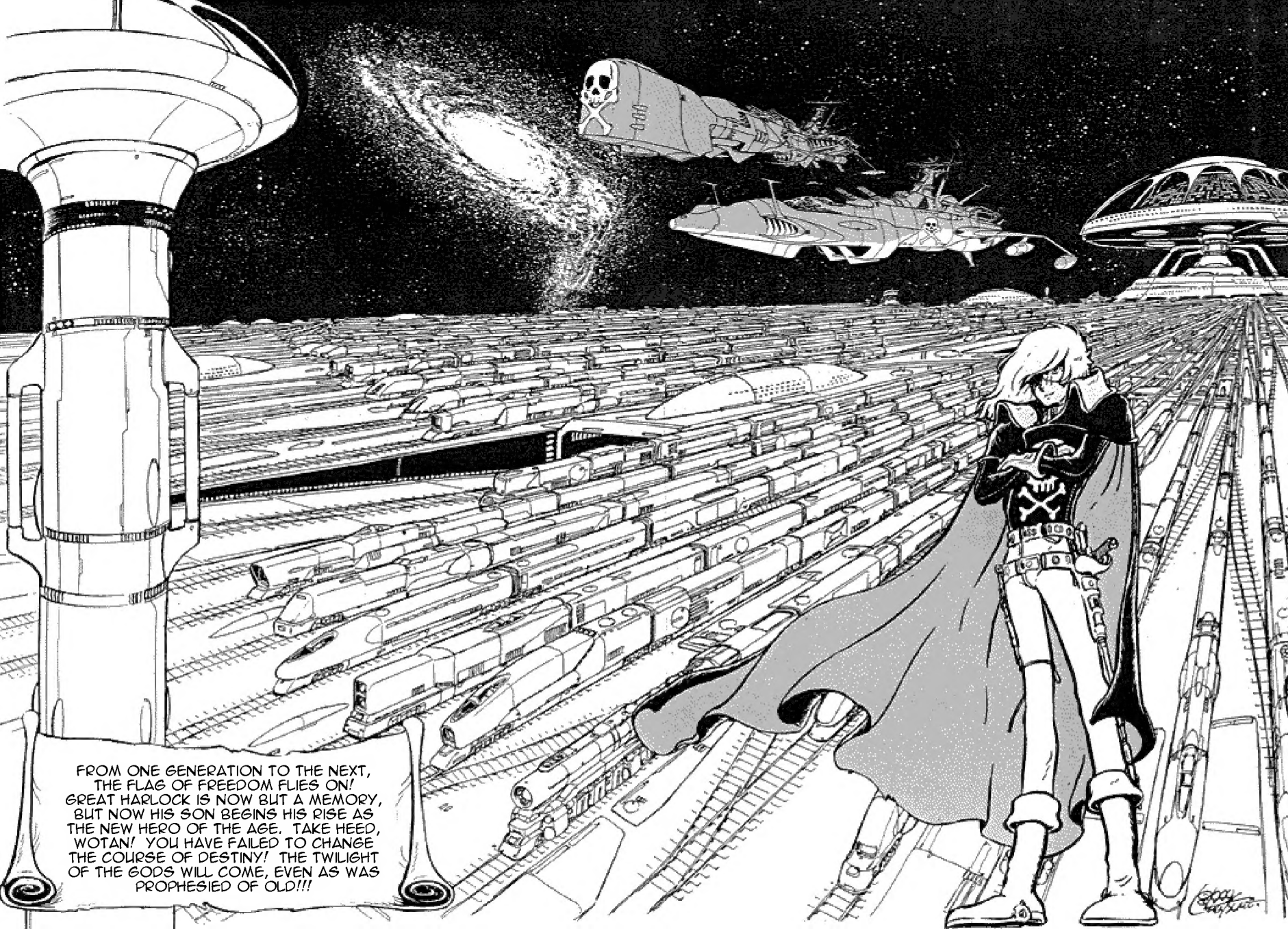
Götterdämmerung was supposed to be the fourth and final part of the *Harlock Saga* manga series. Like the previous parts, *The Valkyrie* and *Siegfried*, it was initially released on Shinchosa Publishing's Internet site (www.shinchosa.co.jp). It was available online in both the original Japanese and in a (somewhat pidgin) English translation. New panels were released every week or two, with the English version usually running behind the Japanese version by one installment. In March of 2001 the English version finally caught up with the Japanese one, but this was because no more panels were being released. The online manga did not get updated for several months, and then was eventually pulled in its entirety. Since *Götterdammerung* was never finished, stopping just short of what is believed to be its halfway mark, it was never commercially published.

This is the first time that *Götterdämerung* has been made available to Leijiverse fans since the online version was pulled by Shinchosa. As it turns out, I and at least two other people archived it in its entirety at that time. Unfortunately, our three archives are of the English version. We do not know if any additional panels were ever released in the Japanese original.

I have taken the liberty of cleaning up Shinchosa's own English translation for this "manga-ized" edition. I have also rewritten it somewhat both to make it a better read, and to better fit continuitywise with the other volumes I have adapted for English language readers. If there are any mistakes or mistranslations as a result of this, they are entirely my own.

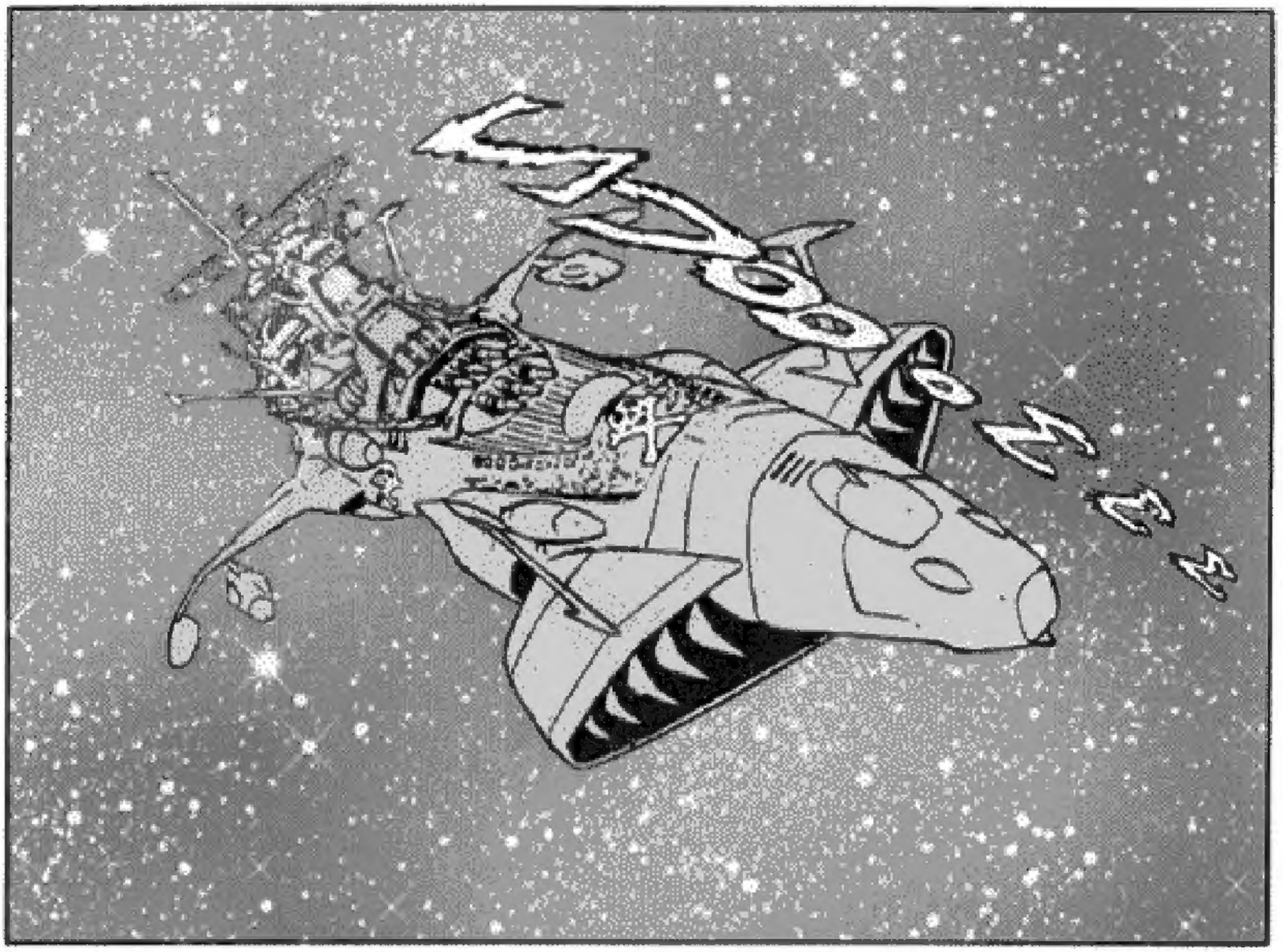
Götterdämmerung

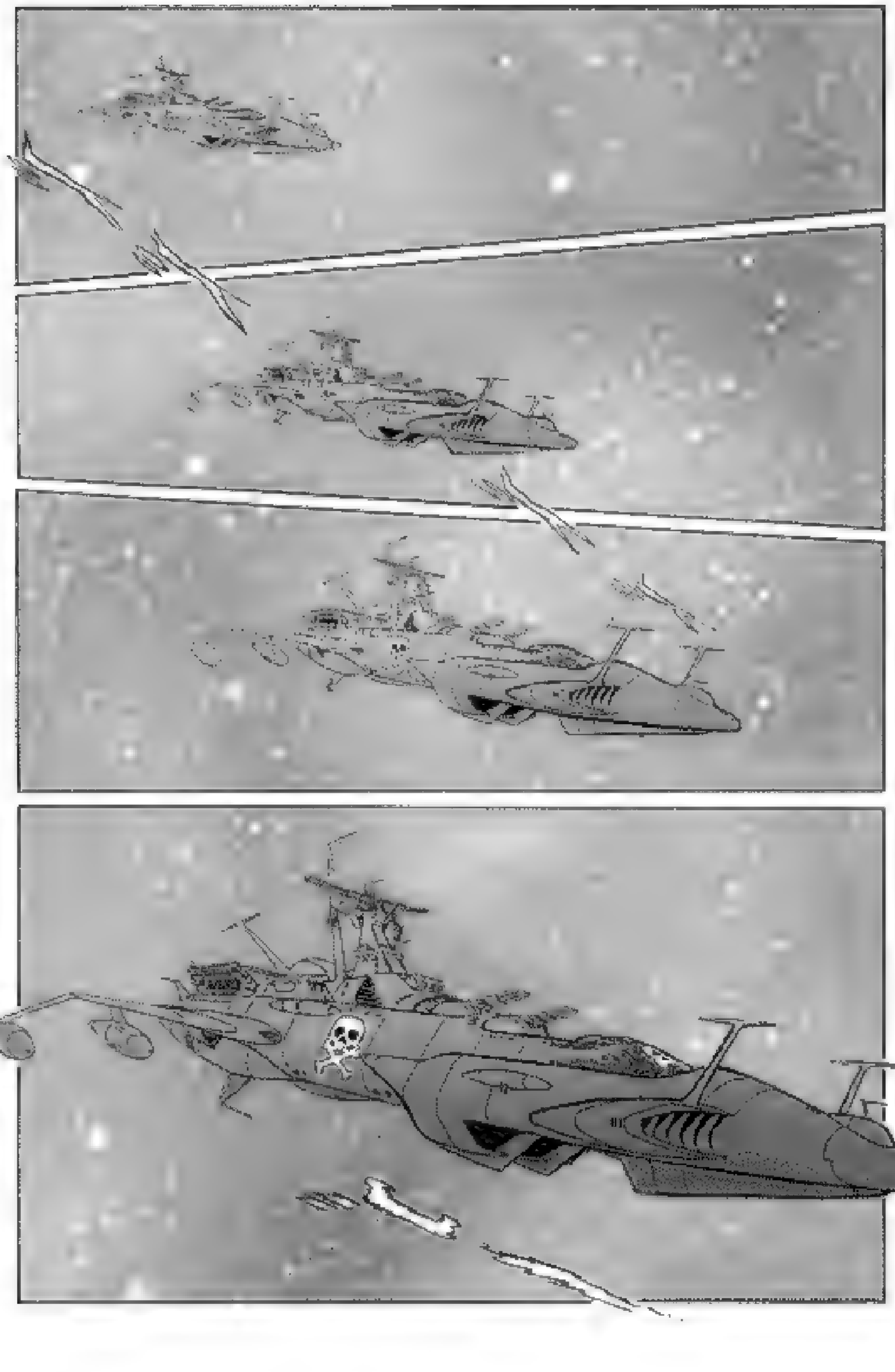
Ring 59 : In Memorium

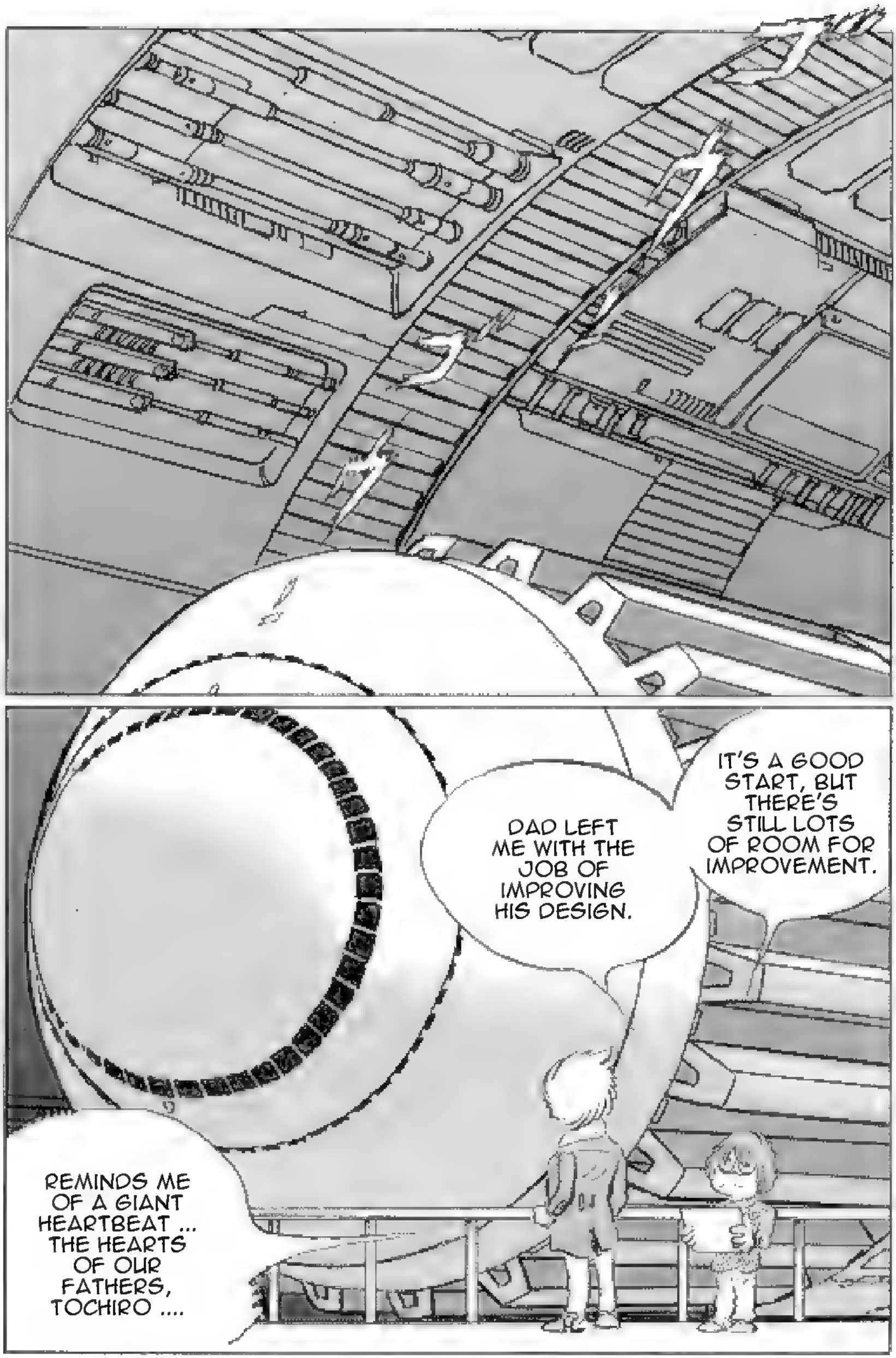

FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT, THE FLAG OF FREEDOM FLIES ON! GREAT HARLOCK IS NOW BUT A MEMORY, BUT NOW HIS SON BEGINS HIS RISE AS THE NEW HERO OF THE AGE. TAKE HEED, WOTAN! YOU HAVE FAILED TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF DESTINY! THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS WILL COME, EVEN AS WAS PROPHESIED OF OLD!!!

FROM START TO FINISH, THE HAND OF FATE NEVER CHANGES. ITS INFLUENCE IS IS FELT BY ALL WHO LIVE THEIR LIVES WITHIN THE RINGS OF TIME. CERTAIN EVENTS ARE PREDESTINED, AND NOT EVENT THE MIGHT OF A GOD CAN CHANGE THEM. WOTAN HAS YET TO LEARN THAT LESSON, EVEN THOUGH HIS STRUGGLES WITH THE NORNS HAVE BEEN MANY OVER THE LONG AGES OF THE UNIVERSE....

DO YOU SUPPOSE THOSE WHO DISCOVERED ASTEROID 6565 REIJI EVER THOUGHT IT WOULD WIND UP SO FAR AWAY FROM THE SOL SYSTEM? PERHAPS IN THEIR HEARTS THEY WISHED AND DREAMED SUCH A THING ....






DAD LEFT ME WITH THE JOB OF IMPROVING HIS DESIGN.
IT'S A GOOD START, BUT THERE'S STILL LOTS OF ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.
REMINDS ME OF A GIANT HEARTBEAT ... THE HEARTS OF OUR FATHERS, TOCHIRO ....

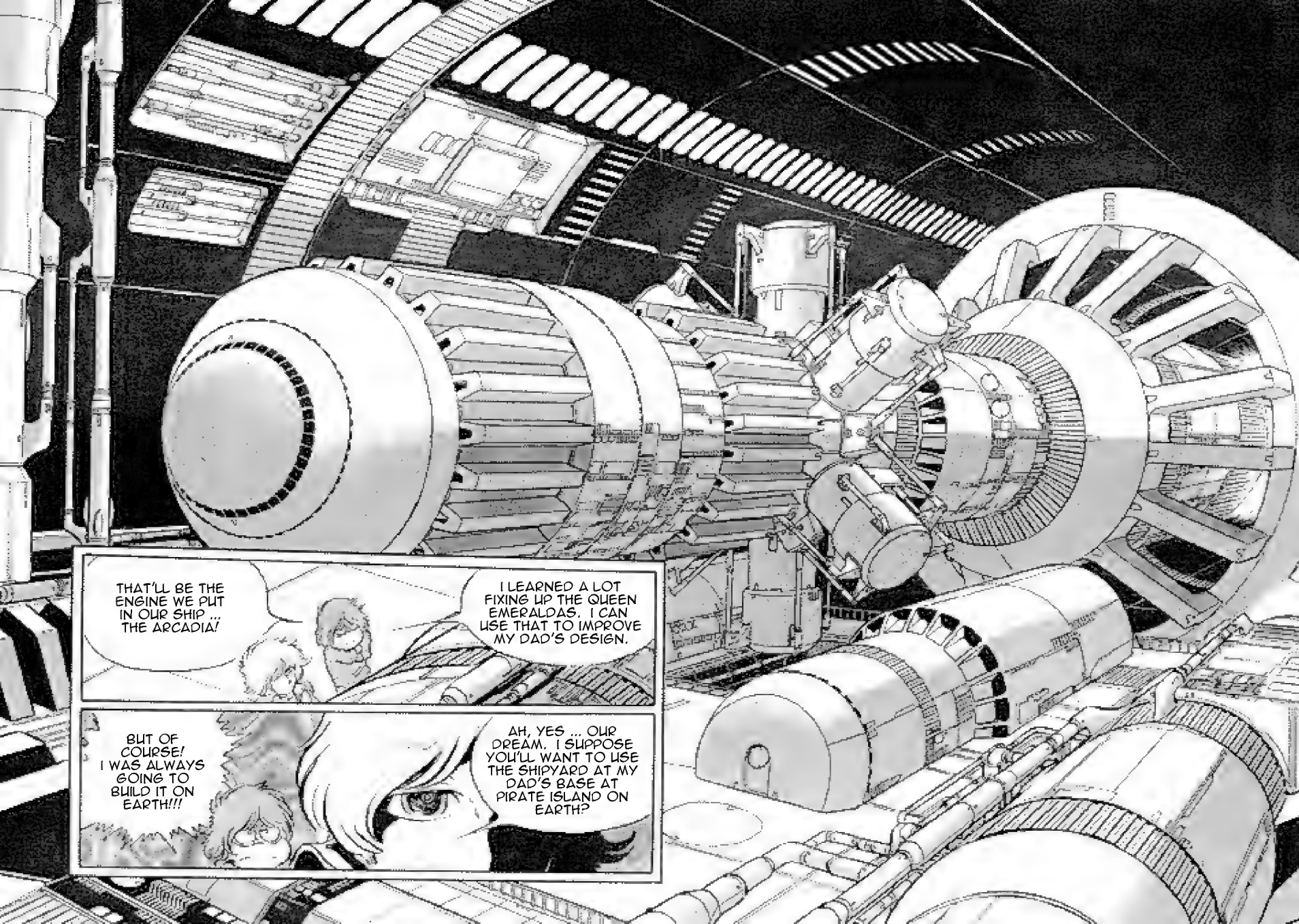
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN ... IT'S ALMOST AS IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE ... STILL WITH US ....

THEY LEFT US EVERYTHING, HARLOCK ... BEFORE THEY ... BEFORE ...

SO WARM TO THE TOUCH ....

SO DO I.

SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE RINGS OF TIME, MY FRIEND, WE'LL SEE THEM AGAIN. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT.


THAT'LL BE THE ENGINE WE PUT IN OUR SHIP ... THE ARCADIA!
I LEARNED A LOT FIXING UP THE QUEEN EMERALDAS. I CAN USE THAT TO IMPROVE MY DAD'S DESIGN.
BUT OF COURSE! I WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BUILD IT ON EARTH!!!
AH, YES ... OUR DREAM. I SUPPOSE YOU'LL WANT TO USE THE SHIPYARD AT MY DAD'S BASE AT PIRATE ISLAND ON EARTH?

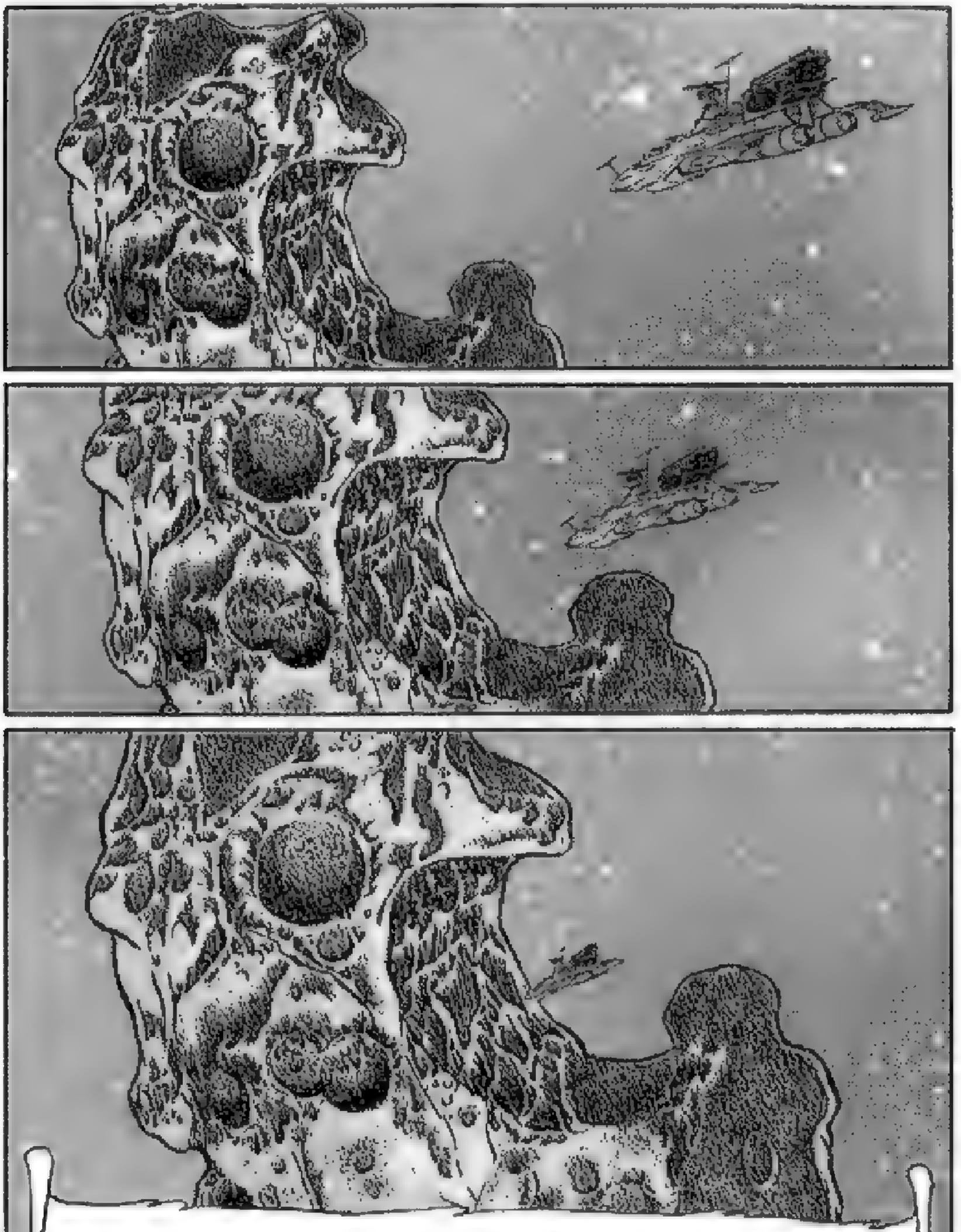
SO WHAT?! DID THAT STOP OUR FATHERS FROM BUILDING THEIR DEATH SHADOW? NONE OF THEIR OTHER BASES ARE UP TO THE JOB!

HAVEN'T YOU FORGOTTEN ONE SMALL DETAIL? THE EARTH IS OCCUPIED, YOU KNOW.

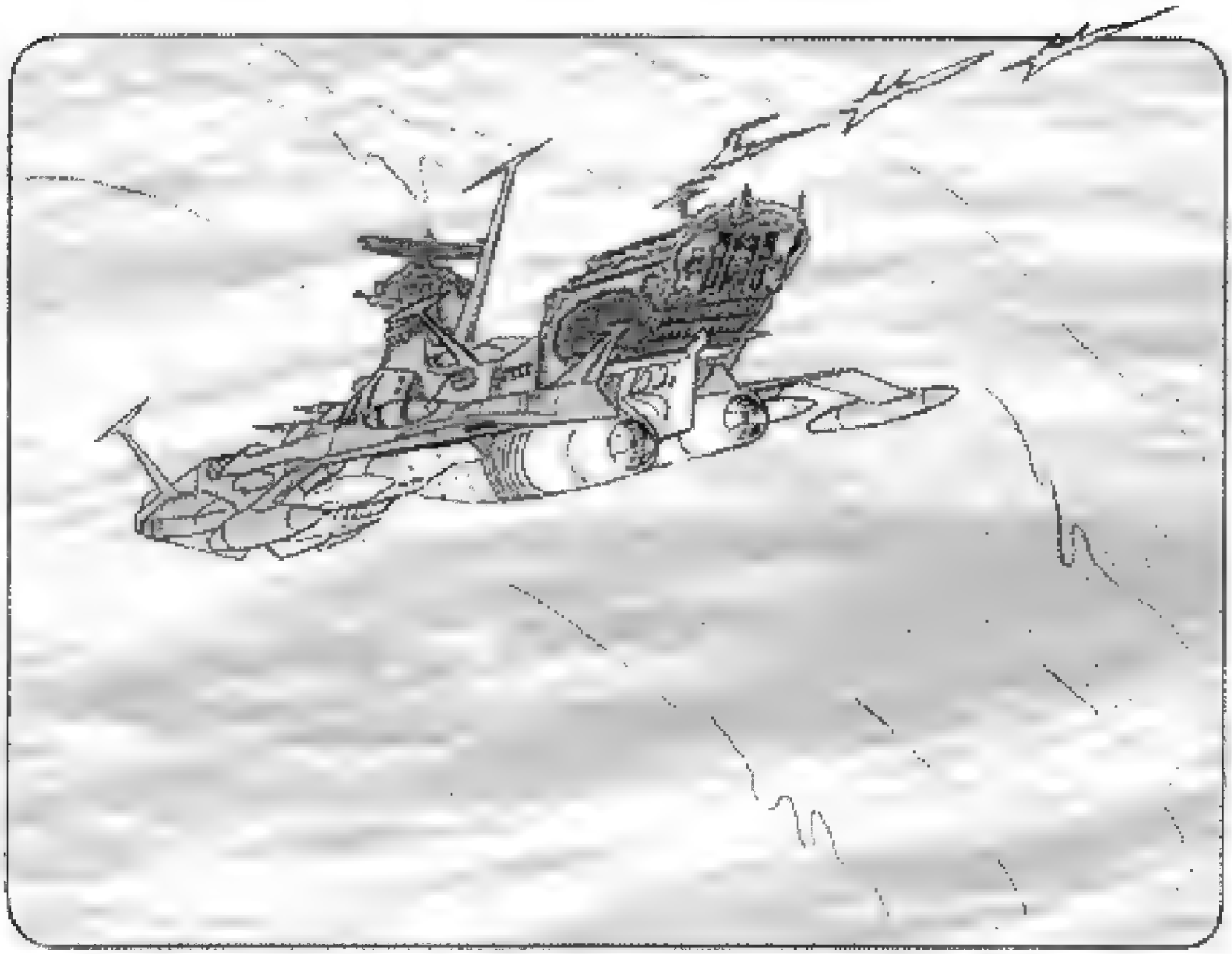
DON'T MESS WITH ME LIKE THAT!!!

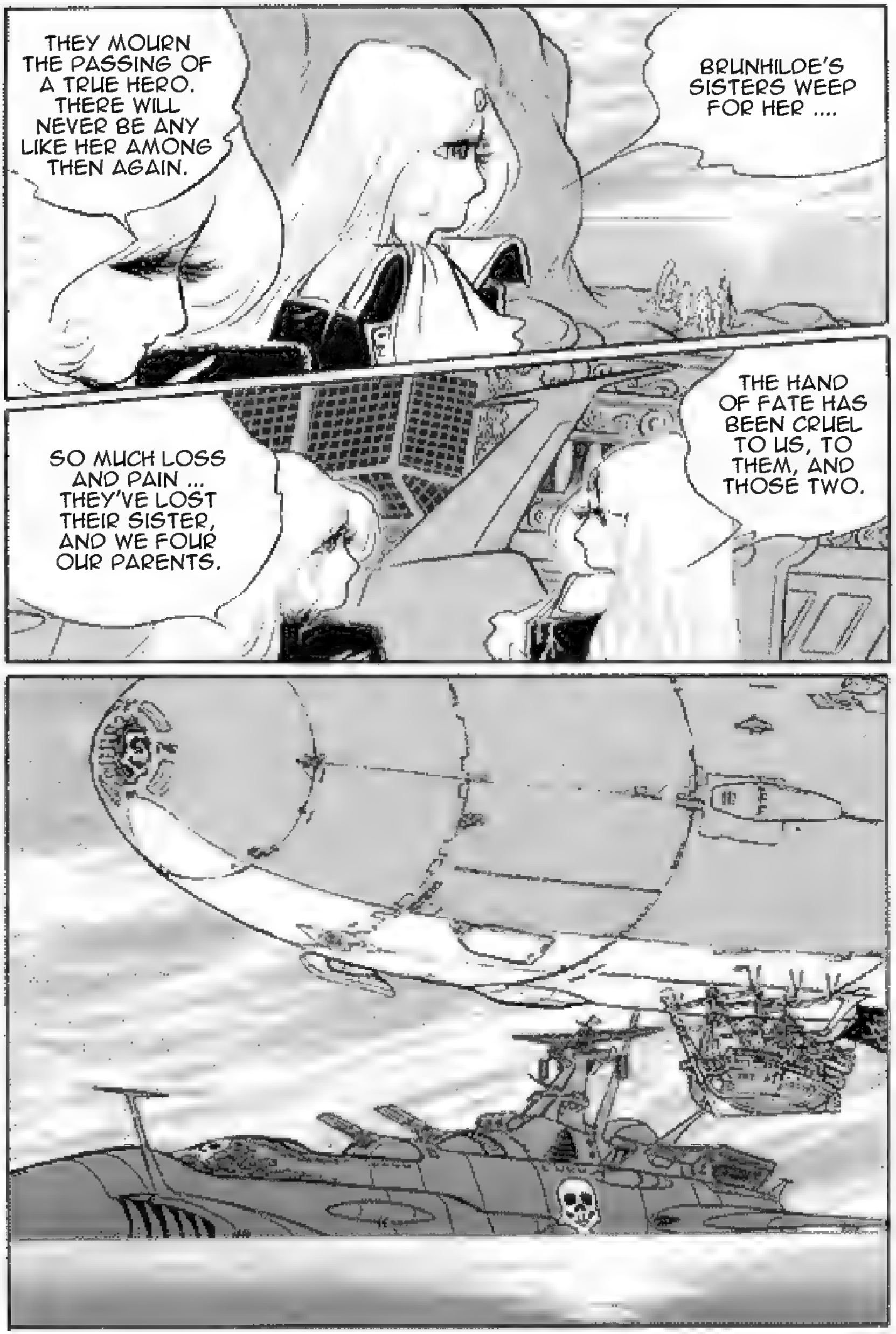
I KNOW, TOCHIRO. I WAS JUST JOKING.

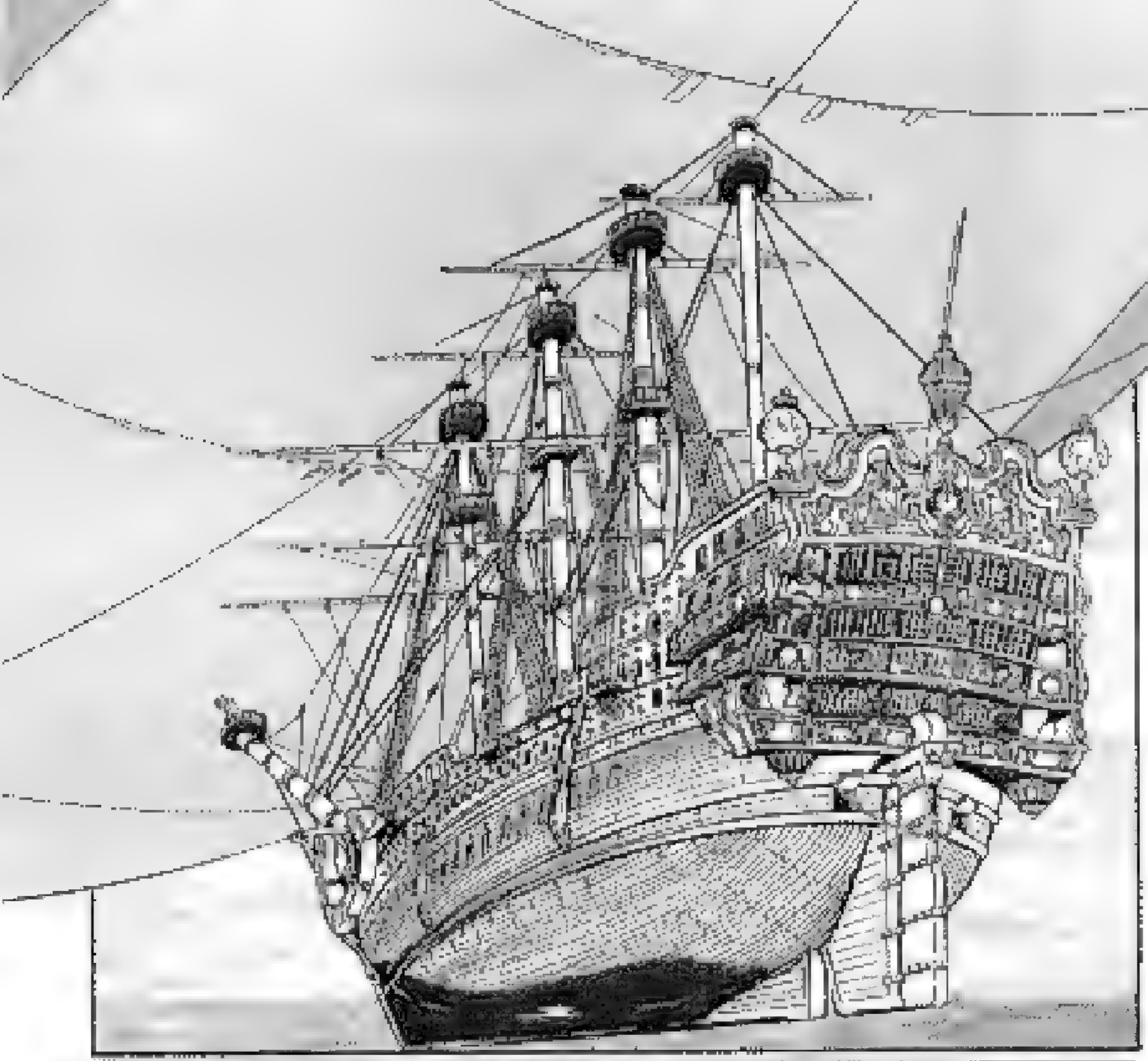
AS EARTH WAS THE CRADLE OF HUMANITY, SO EARTH IS THE MOTHER OF THE PIRATE SHIPS OF THE HARLOCKS. SUCH HAS IT ALWAYS BEEN ... AND SUCH WILL IT ALWAYS BE.



THE GREAT PIRATE SHIP ARCADIA ... A VESSEL SHROUDED IN MYSTERY AND LEGEND. YET IT WAS A HUMAN CREATION, FORGED WITH DREAMS AND TEMPERED WITH PAIN TO BE THW GREATEST SPACE BATTLESHIP OF THE AGE. ITS CREATION MARKED THE END OF THE PRELUDE TO WHAT IS KNOWN AS GOTTERDAMMERUNG -- THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS.

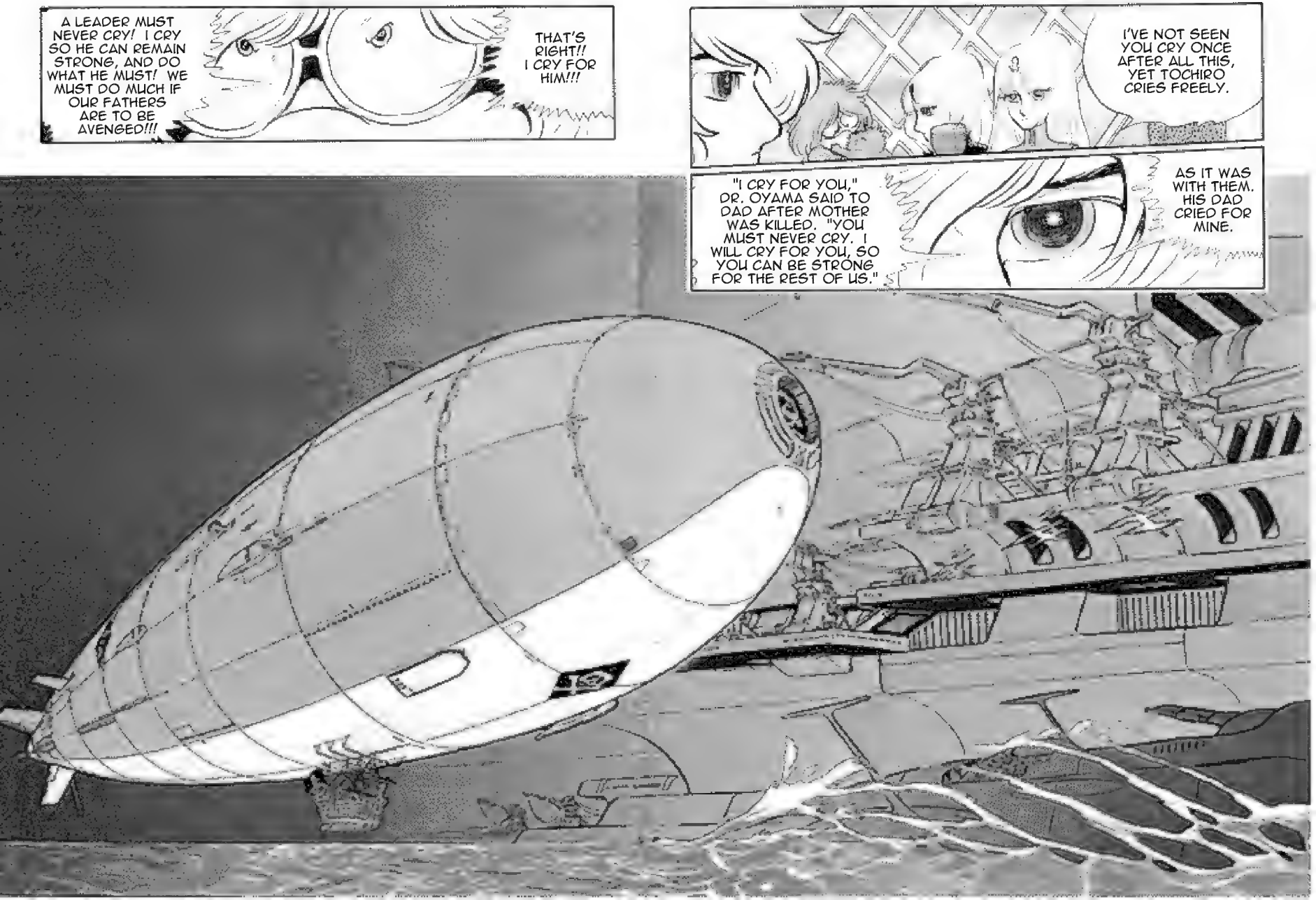


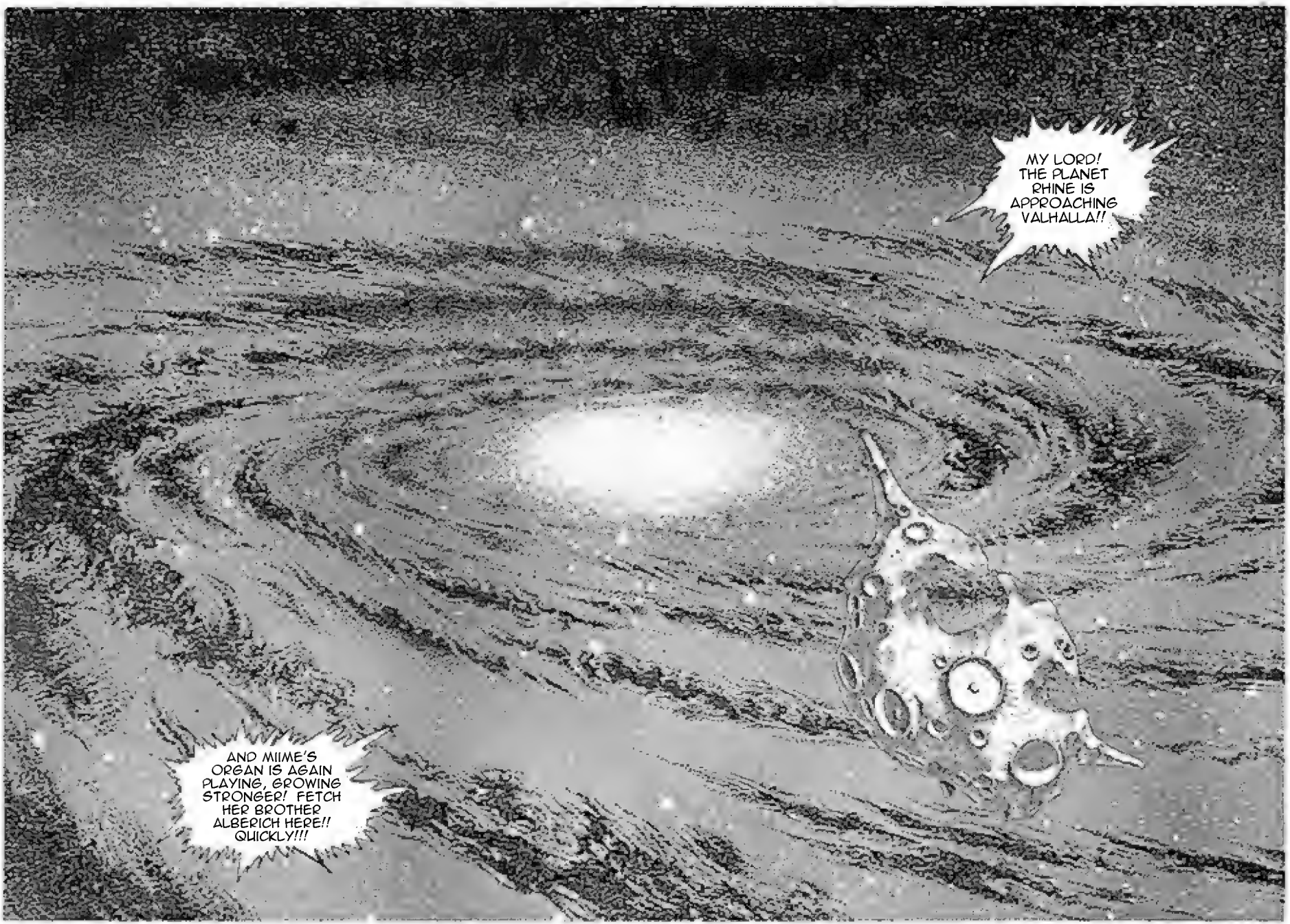

THEY MOURN THE PASSING OF A TRUE HERO. THERE WILL NEVER BE ANY LIKE HER AMONG THEN AGAIN.
BRUNHILDE'S SISTERS WEEP FOR HER ....
SO MUCH LOSS AND PAIN ... THEY'VE LOST THEIR SISTER, AND WE FOUR OUR PARENTS.
THE HAND OF FATE HAS BEEN CRUEL TO US, TO THEM, AND THOSE TWO.



WOULD YOU?
I GET THE FEELING THEIR LOSS IS FAIRILY RECENT ... LIKE OURS.
THEY MENTIONED THEY HAD LOST THEIR PARENTS, TOO .. BUT THEY'VE NEVER TALKED ABOUT IT.

ONCE I FIX ITS SELF-REPAIR FUNCIONS, IT'LL FIX ITSELF.
ANYWAY ... AT LEAST YOU CAN FINISH YOUR WORK ON THE QUEEN EMERALDAS HERE.


A LEADER MUST NEVER CRY! I CRY SO HE CAN REMAIN STRONG, AND DO WHAT HE MUST! WE MUST DO MUCH IF OUR FATHERS ARE TO BE AVENGED!!!
THAT'S RIGHT!! I CRY FOR HIM!!!
I'VE NOT SEEN YOU CRY ONCE AFTER ALL THIS, YET TOCHIRO CRIES FREELY.
"I CRY FOR YOU," DR. OYAMA SAID TO DAD AFTER MOTHER WAS KILLED. "YOU MUST NEVER CRY. I WILL CRY FOR YOU, SO YOU CAN BE STRONG FOR THE REST OF US."
AS IT WAS WITH THEM. HIS DAD CRIED FOR MINE.


MY LORD! THE PLANET RHINE IS APPROACHING VALHALLA!!
AND MIIME'S ORGAN IS AGAIN PLAYING, GROWING STRONGER! FETCH HER BROTHER ALBERICH HERE!! QUICKLY!!!

THE MUSICAL RADIATION FROM MIIME'S ORGAN IS TOO STRONG! THE WHOLE OF VALHALLA IS SHAKING!!!

ALRIGHT, MIIME. THIS LITTLE GAME HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH. IT'S TIME FOR THOSE TWO BRATS TO DIE!!!

FRICKA, GET ALBERICH! I'M SURE HE'LL BE QUITE HAPPY TO KILL THE BOYS FOR US, AND GO BACK TO PLANET RHINE HIMSELF!!!

FOOLS CANNOT AFFECT THE FUTURE, NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY MIGHT TRY. SUCH A FOOL IS WOTAN, WHO STILL DELUDES HIMSELF IN BELIEVING HE IS THE SUPREME BEING OF ALL CREATION. HE IS BUT AN INCOMPETENT CLOWN, AND VALHALLA WILL SOON ENOUGH PAY A TERRIBLE PRICE FOR HIS ARROGANCE. YES, THAT TIME IS COMING ... AND THE ONES WHO WILL BRING ABOUT HIS DOWNFALL ARE THE TWO BOYS HE HAS TRIED SO HARD ... AND FAILED ... TO KILL.

Götterdämmerung

Ring 60 ; Arrivals and Departures

VALHALLA ... IT IS THE NAME OF BOTH THE REALM OF THE GODS AND THE ARTIFICIAL WORD ON WHICH THEY RESIDE ... HALF A WORLD, IN FACT, WHOSE SAD STATE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE GODS THEMSELVES DURING A TRAGEDY BACK IN ANCIENT TIMES. WOTAN HAS NEVER ADMITTED HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT ... AND THUS VALHALLA REMAINS A WORLD OF COMPLACENT FOOLS, WHOSE DESIRE FOR ETERNAL YOUTH AND AGELESS BEAUTY ONLY HIGHLIGHTS THEIR TRUE AND PITIFUL STATE.

ERDA!!!

OUT OF WHAT HOLE DID YOU CRAWL?!

I HAVE RETURNED, WOTAN, EVEN AS I FORETOLD. WHY HAVE YOU SUMMONED ALBERICH? CAN'T YOU SEE THIS IS YOUR GRAVEST ERROR?

YOU HAVE JUST ENSURED THE DOWNFALL OF THE GODS WITH YOUR SUMMONS OF ALBERICH.

MY WAYS ARE NOT YOUR WAYS, LORD OF VALHALLA. EVEN SO, I COME TO BRING YOU A WARNING.

DAMNIT, WOMAN, WHY CAN'T YOU ACT LIKE ANY OTHER GOD?

ONLY ONE SIMPLE THING CAN AVERT THIS FATE.

NO!!! THAT WILL NOT BE!!! I AM DOING EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO PREVENT THAT!!!

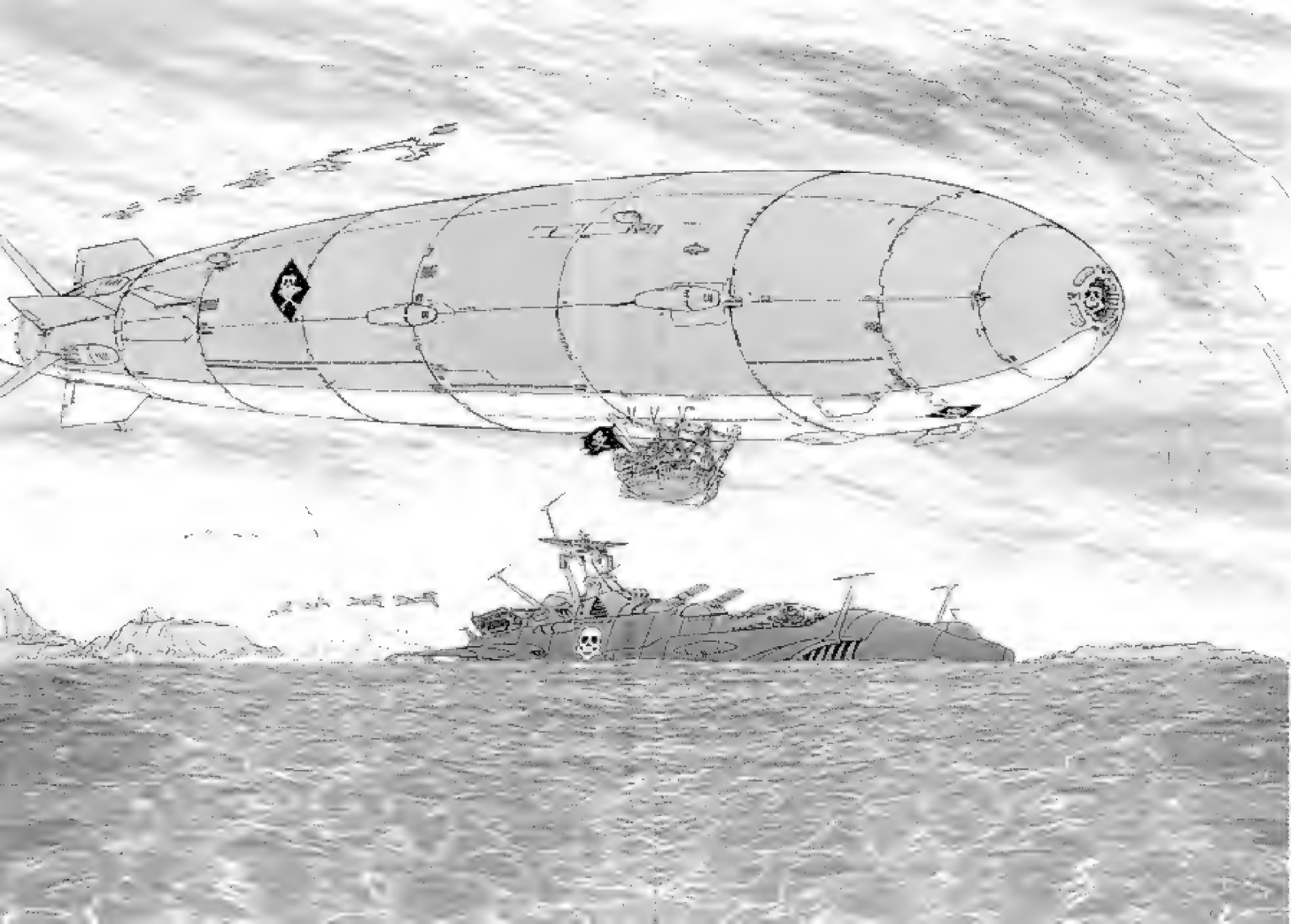
YOU STAND POISED ON THE EDGE OF RUIN. WILL YOU LET YOUR STUPID PRIDE BE THE CAUSE OF YOUR FALL?

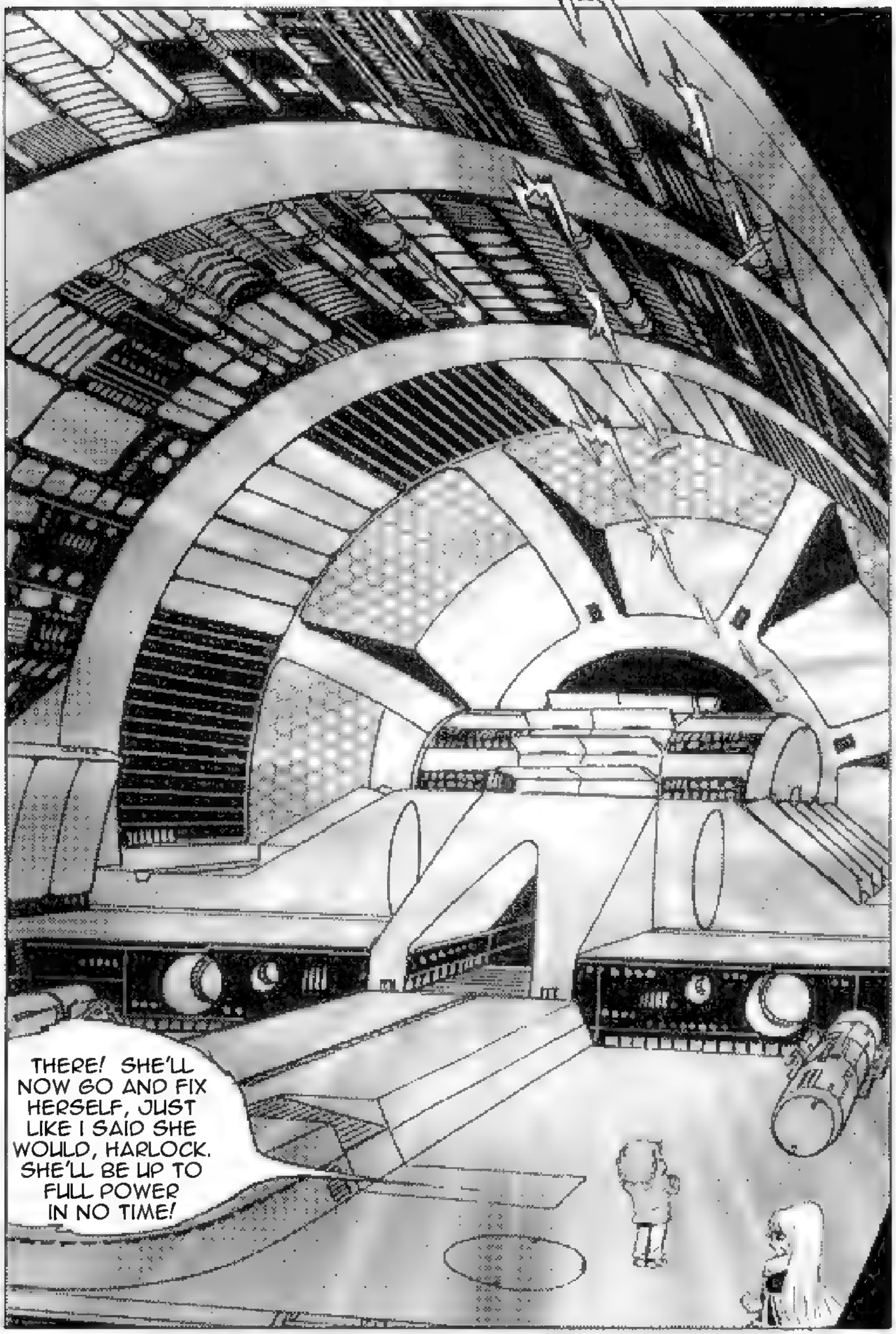
SEND ALBERICH AWAY. DO NOT DISPATCH HIM ON YOUR ERRAND.

HEED ME WELL, LORD WOTAN! ALBERICH COMES EVEN NOW! WHAT WILL YOU SAY TO HIM?

IF YOU CAN'T, THEN ALL IS LOST.

LORD WOTAN ... YOU SUMMONED ME? HOW CAN I BE OF SERVICE?




THERE! SHE'LL NOW GO AND FIX HERSELF, JUST LIKE I SAID SHE WOULD, HARLOCK. SHE'LL BE UP TO FULL POWER IN NO TIME!

I GOT NEWS FOR YOU. THE VALKYRIES ARE GETTING READY TO LEAVE, AND FREYA'S GOING WITH THEM.

HEY! NICE OUTFIT.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS, YOUNG TOCHIRO. I AM NOW READY TO DEPART.

I ... I DON'T WANT HER TO LEAVE. SHE'S SO MUCH LIKE HER SISTER MIIME ... I MEAN ... YOU KNOW.

WHAT?! SHE'S LEAVING US?!!

SHE'S ONLY ONE OF A HANDFUL OF IMMORTALS WHO KNOWS HOW TO PLAY IT. IT KEEPS THE UNIVERSE IN BALANCE, SO THEY SAY.

THEY'RE ALL GOING BACK TO VALHALLA. FREYA IS NEEDED TO PLAY THE COSMIC ORGAN THERE.

SHE'S OUR FRIEND ... AND I WANTED HER TO BE THERE TO SEE ME BUILD THE ARCADIA!

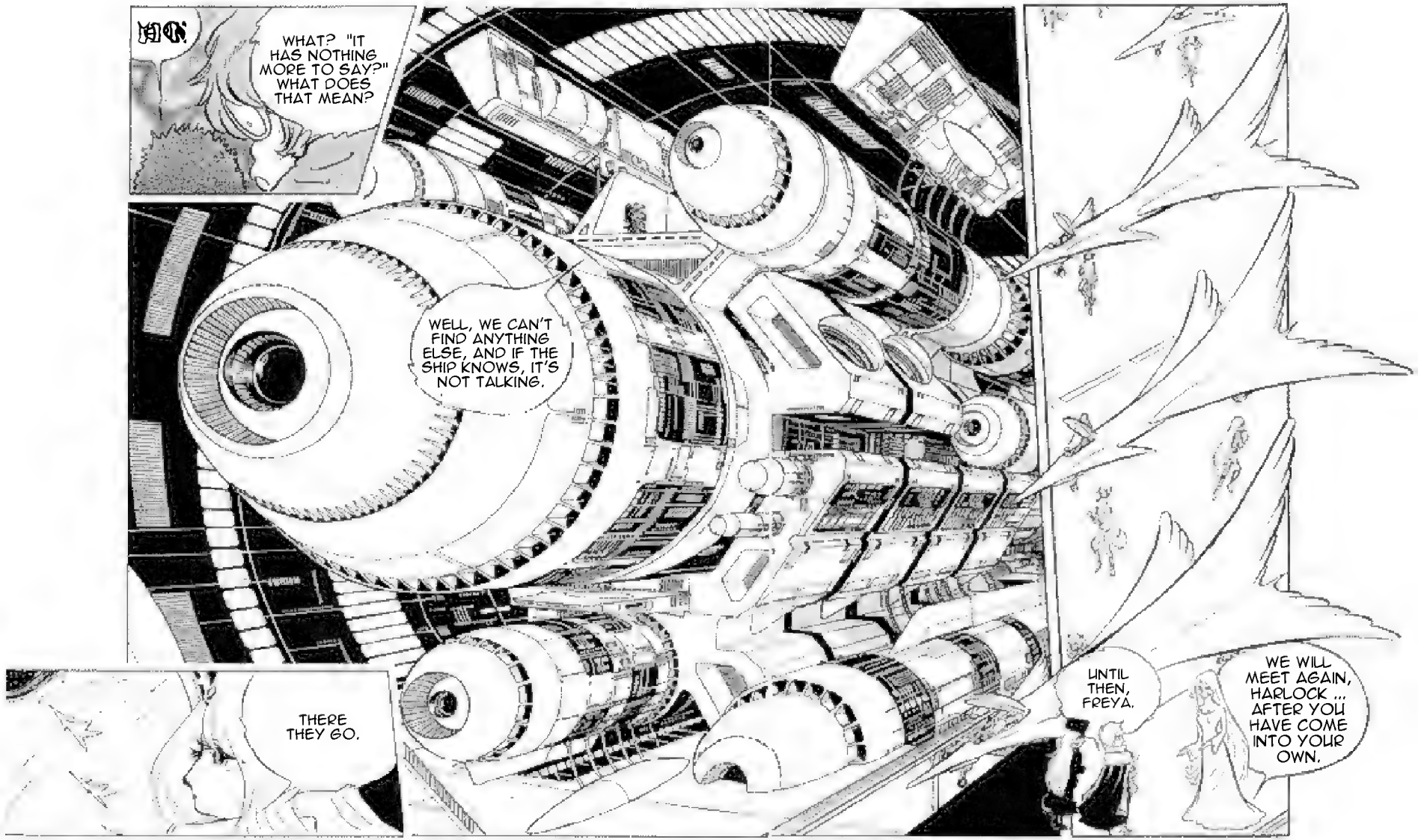
NO!!!

BESIDES, YOU'VE GOT YOUR HANDS FULL WITH OUR CURRENT SHIP, NOT TO MENTION THE QUEEN EMERALDAS. IT'S TIME TO FINISH GROWING UP, MY FRIEND.

THIS IS MY TASK ... JUST AS BOTH YOU AND HARLOCK HAVE A DESTINY TO FULFILL.

NANIKA, GO WITH TOCHIRO. IT IS THE WISH OF THE MISTRESS.

YEAH, YEAH .... I UNDERSTAND ... BUT I DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT.


WHAT? "IT HAS NOTHING MORE TO SAY?" WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WELL, WE CAN'T FIND ANYTHING ELSE, AND IF THE SHIP KNOWS, IT'S NOT TALKING.
THERE THEY GO.
UNTIL THEN, FREYA.
WE WILL MEET AGAIN, HARLOCK ... AFTER YOU HAVE COME INTO YOUR OWN.

FREYA HAD ONE MORE THING TO SAY BEFORE SHE LEFT WITH THE VALKYRIES. "TELL EMERALDAS AND TOCHIRO THAT THEY WILL HAVE ... AN EXCITING FUTURE TOGETHER." A LOOK OF SADNESS PASSED OVER HER FACE AS SHE CONTINUED. "ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS. IT WILL BE FAR MORE HAPPINESS THAN WOTAN WILL EVER KNOW. HIS TIME AND THAT OF THE ANCIENT GODS WILL SOON ENOUGH COME TO AN END - BUT THAT OF YOU FOUR IS JUST BEGINNING. USE IT WELL."

ENTER ALBERICH, ELDER BROTHER OF MIIME AND FREYA. A LEADER, SCIENTIST, AND MASTER TECHNICIAN AMONG THE NIEBELUNGEN. IT WAS HE WHO DROVE THEM TO REBEL AGAINST THE GODS IN THE ANCIENT TIME, AND THUS BROUGHT ABOUT THEIR BANISHMENT AND EXILE. NOW HE IS A SMALL MAN IN THE LARGE SCHEME OF THINGS ... A LONELY SOUL, SEEKING ONLY IMMEDIATE FULFILLMENT, WHO HAS LONG SINCE CEASED TO PONDER ON THINGS METAPHYSICAL, AND CARES ONLY FOR CONTROL OVER THE HERE AND NOW.

YOU ... YOU SUMMONED ME, LORD WOTAN? WHY?

ALBERICH, MY BOY! COME IN! WON'T YOU DINE WITH US? ONLY THE BEST FOR THE GODS ... AND THEIR FRIENDS.

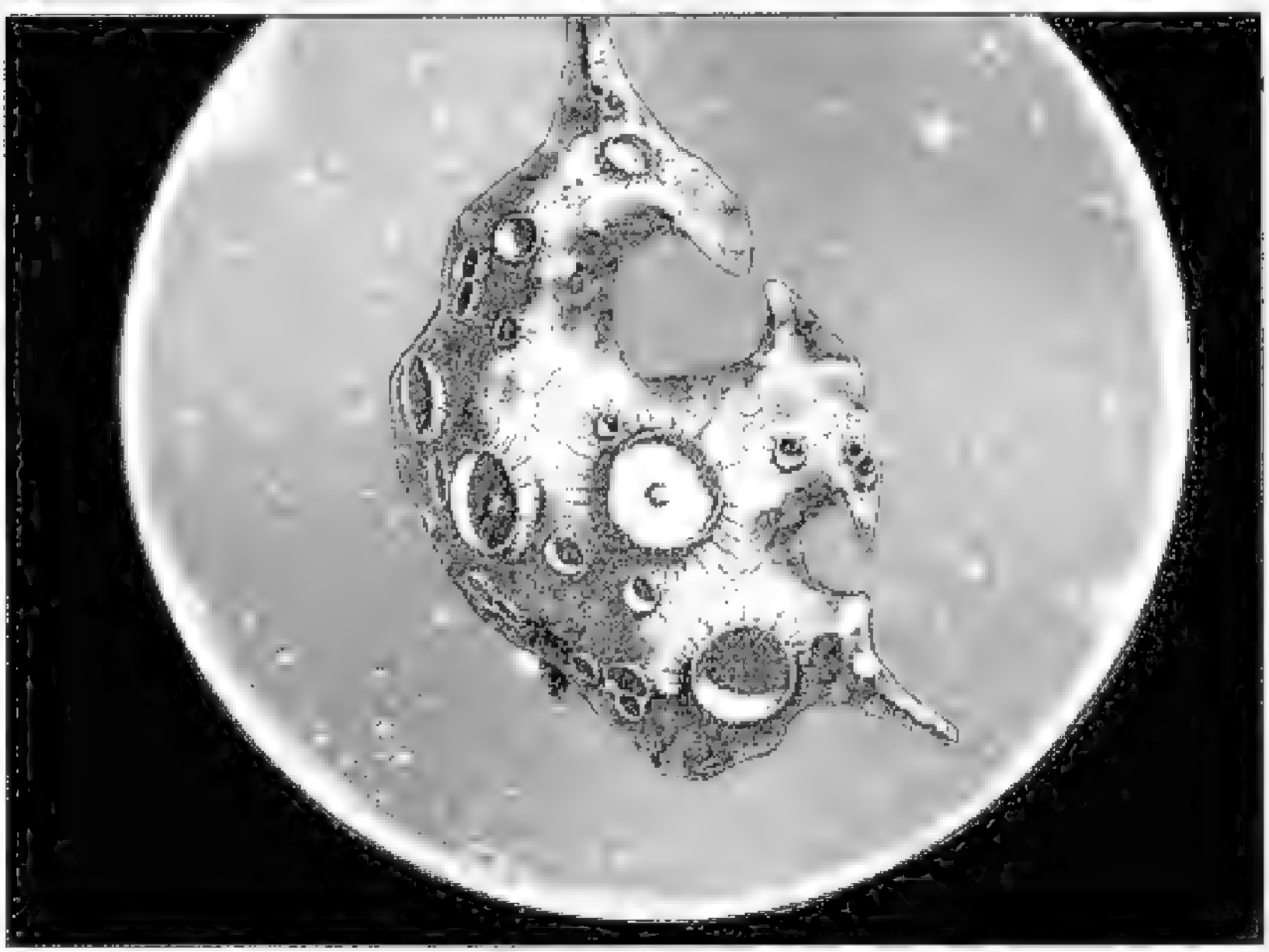
FORGET IT. DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR SISTER IS? I WANT TO SEE HER.

I -- I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT ME ... I MEAN, AFTER--

I DO ... AND I WANT YOU TO GO GET HER. EASY ENOUGH?

YOU MEAN MIIME? I ... I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE--

SHE'S GONE TO PLAY THE COSMIC ORGAN ON THE PLANET RHINE.



NOT THE RHINE OF THE PRESENT, ALBERICH ... THE RHINE OF THE PAST.

BUT THAT WAS DESTROYED! I DESTROYED IT! THERE'S NO WAY--

THE PAST?!

(THE PLANET RHINE!?!)

I AM GOING TO SEND YOU INTO THE PAST TO RHINE TO FETCH YOUR SISTER AND BRING HER HERE. CLEAR?

AFTER ALL, THERE IS THAT LITTLE MATTER OF THE RHIENGOLD.

BUT ... BUT MY LORD! I WOULD THINK THAT IS THE LAST PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE YOU WOULD WANT TO SEND ME!

I'M WILLING TO RISK THIS IF IT MEANS RIDDING THE UNIVERSE OF CAPTAIN HARLOCK!!!

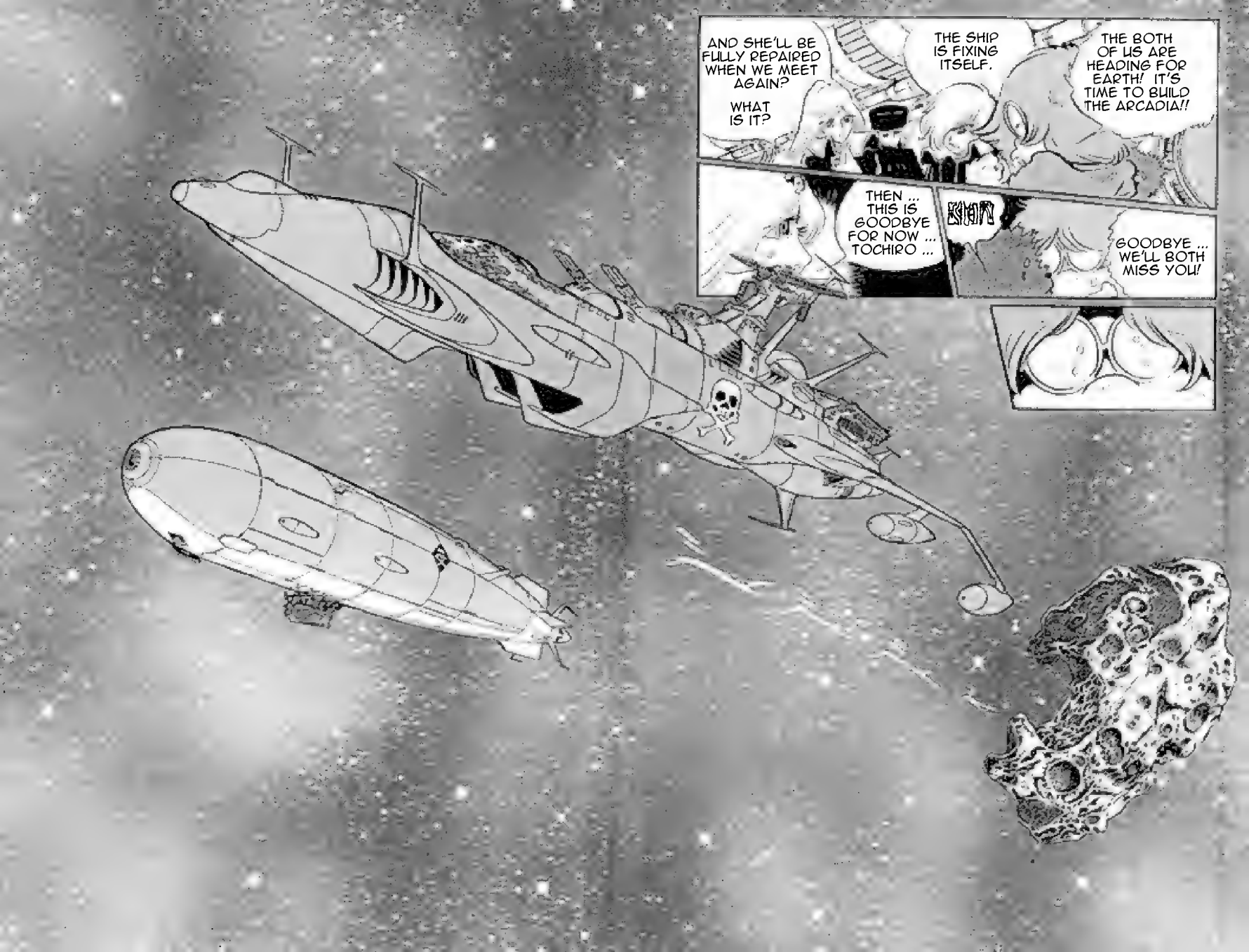
THEN'S HERE'S A SHOCKER FOR YOU. I WANT YOU TO GET IT TOO -- AND BRING BOTH MIIME AND THE RHINEGOLD BACK TO VALHALLA!

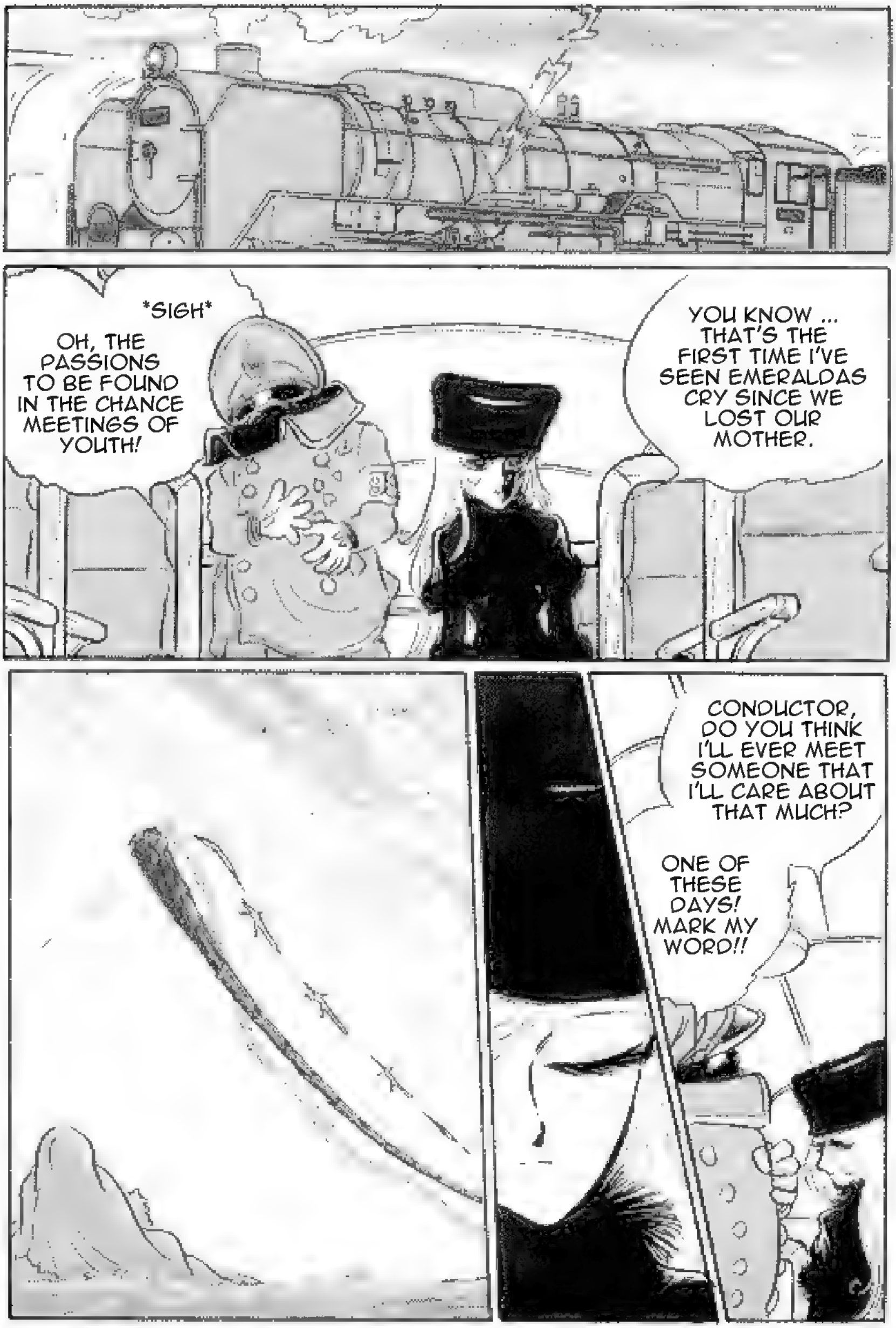
YOU RISK MUCH.

MY LORD ...

... AND WITH THAT I ALMOST OVERTHREW YOU!!! ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO GET IT?

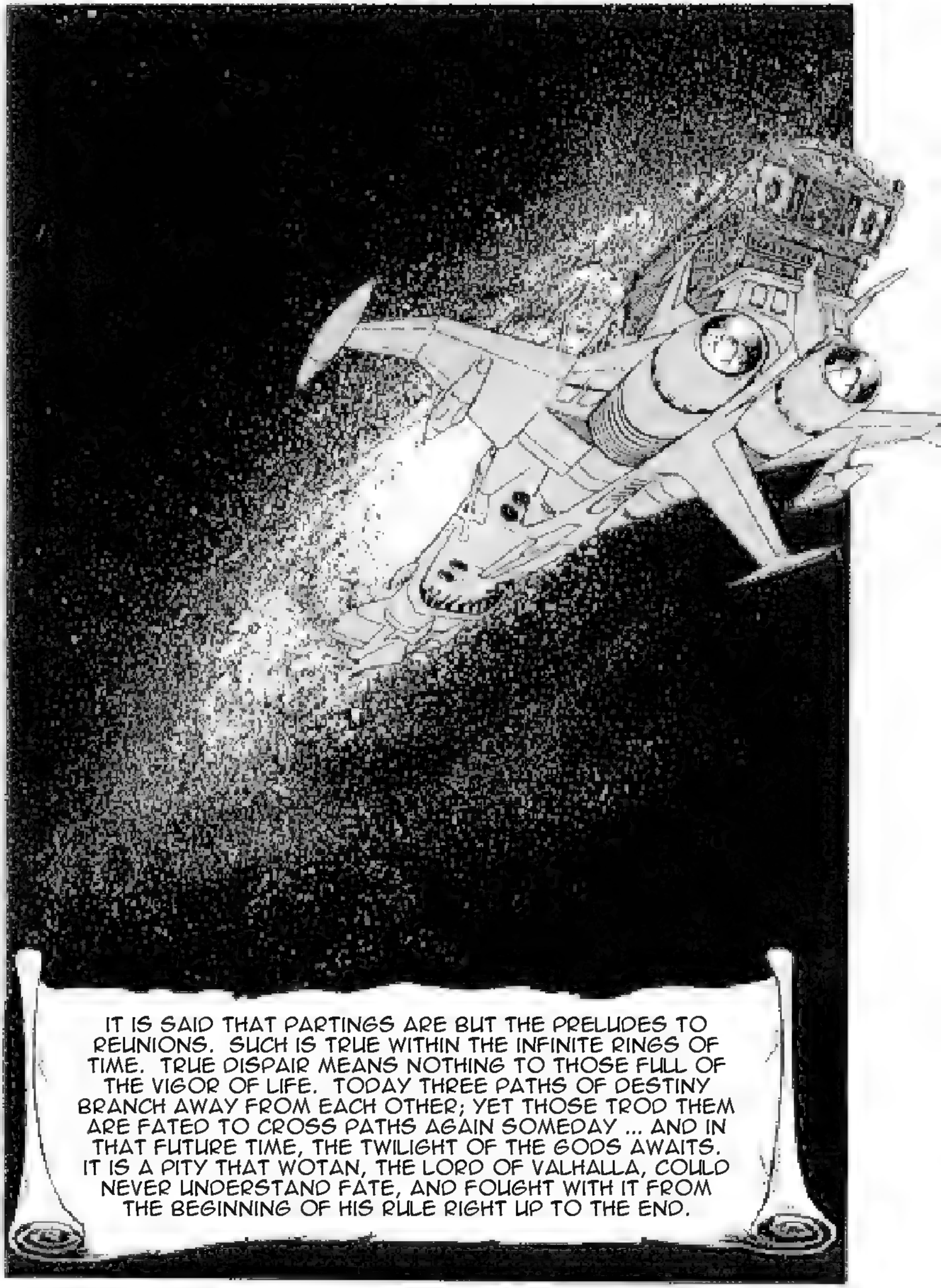
THE LAST TIME I HAD THE RHINEGOLD IN MY POSSESSION, I FOUND A MAN WHO COULD FORGE IT INTO A RING ...


AND SHE'LL BE FULLY REPAIRED WHEN WE MEET AGAIN?
WHAT IS IT?
THE SHIP IS FIXING ITSELF.
THE BOTH OF US ARE HEADING FOR EARTH! IT'S TIME TO BUILD THE ARCADIA!!
THEN ... THIS IS GOODBYE FOR NOW ... TOCHIRO ...
KHAN
GOODBYE ... WE'LL BOTH MISS YOU!


SIGH
OH, THE PASSIONS TO BE FOUND IN THE CHANCE MEETINGS OF YOUTH!
YOU KNOW ... THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN EMERALDAS CRY SINCE WE LOST OUR MOTHER.
CONDUCTOR, DO YOU THINK I'LL EVER MEET SOMEONE THAT I'LL CARE ABOUT THAT MUCH?
ONE OF THESE DAYS! MARK MY WORD!!

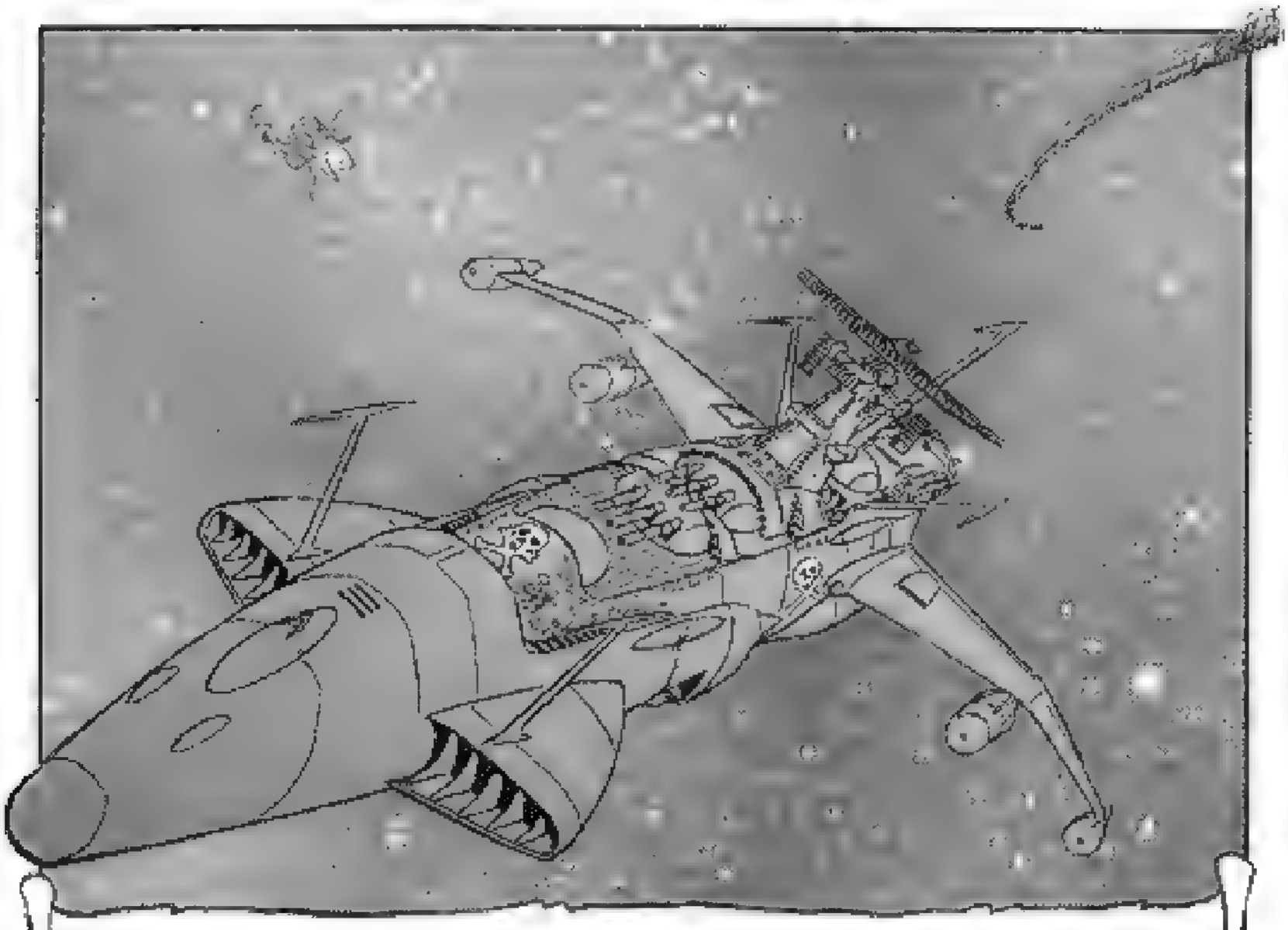
... AND OUR RESPECTIVE DESTINIES WILL BE WOUND EVEN TIGHTER THAN NOW. CAN WE SURVIVE THAT FUTURE TIME?

SO LONG, HARLOCK AND TOCHIRO! WHEN WE MEET AGAIN, THE BOTH OF YOU WILL BE GROWN MEN ...

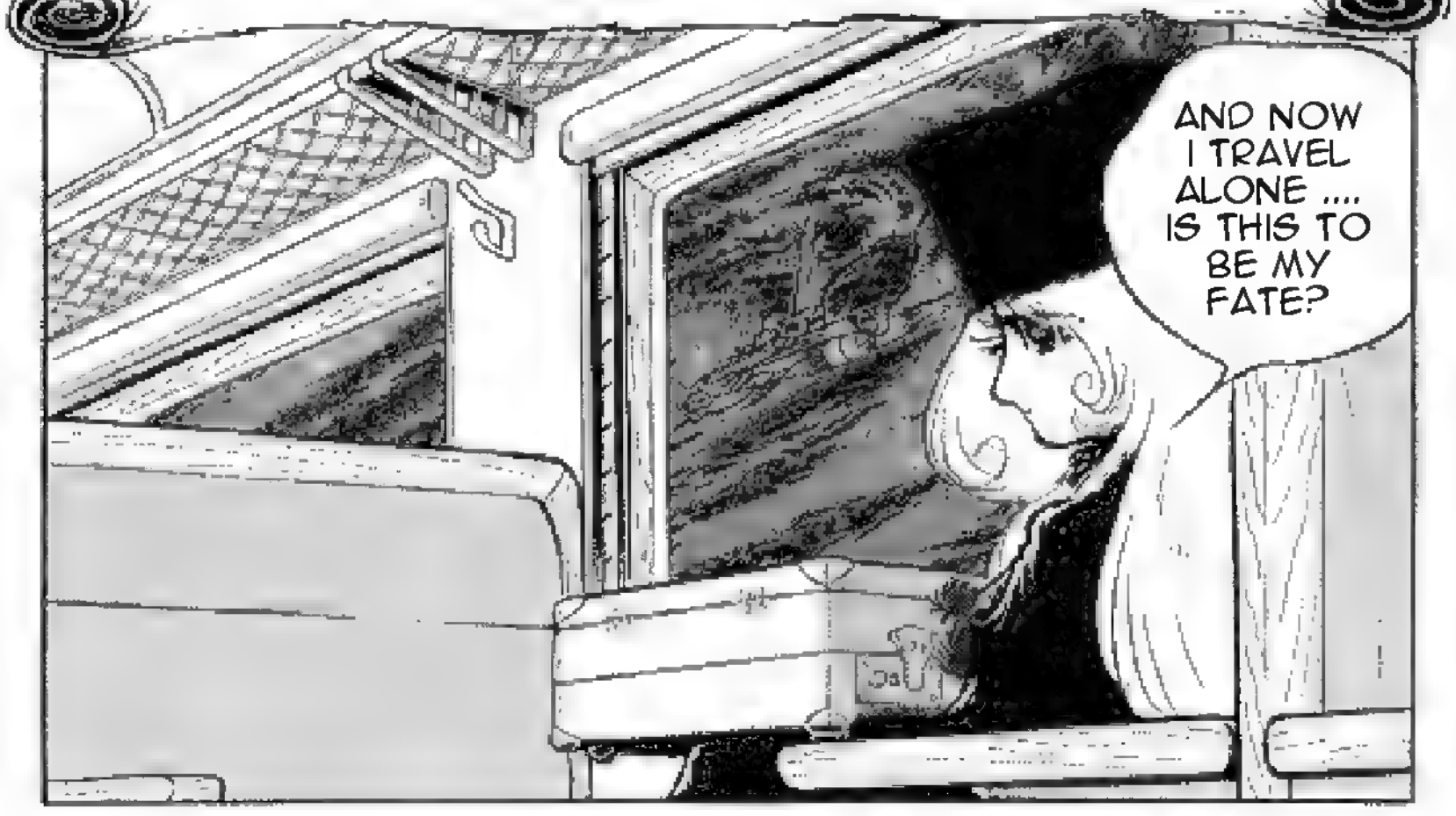

IT IS SAID THAT PARTINGS ARE BUT THE PRELUDES TO REUNIONS. SUCH IS TRUE WITHIN THE INFINITE RINGS OF TIME. TRUE DISPAIR MEANS NOTHING TO THOSE FULL OF THE VIGOR OF LIFE. TODAY THREE PATHS OF DESTINY BRANCH AWAY FROM EACH OTHER; YET THOSE TROD THEM ARE FATED TO CROSS PATHS AGAIN SOMEDAY ... AND IN THAT FUTURE TIME, THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS AWAITS. IT IS A PITY THAT WOTAN, THE LORD OF VALHALLA, COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND FATE, AND FOUGHT WITH IT FROM THE BEGINNING OF HIS RULE RIGHT UP TO THE END.

Götterdämmerung

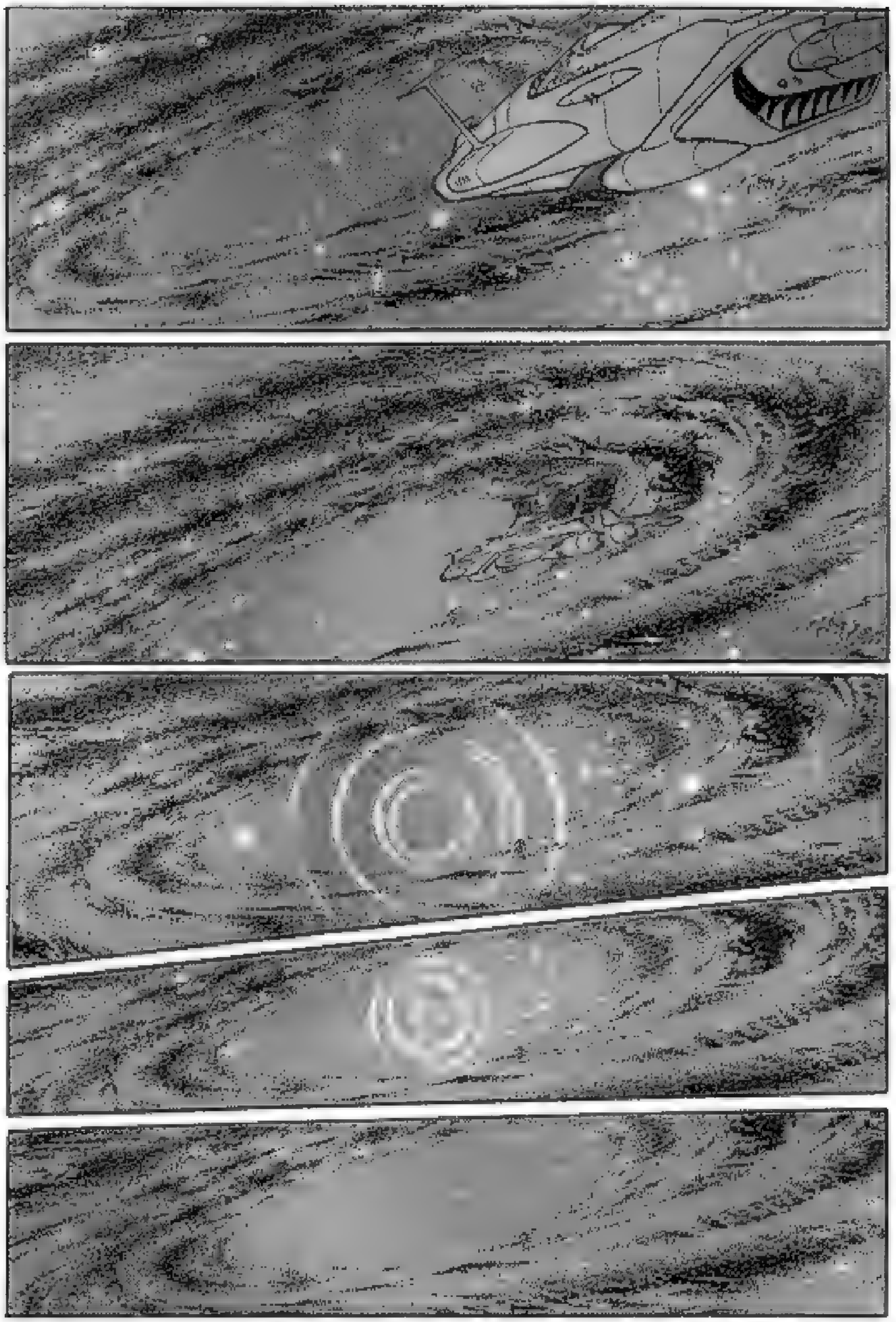
Ring 61: Future Past

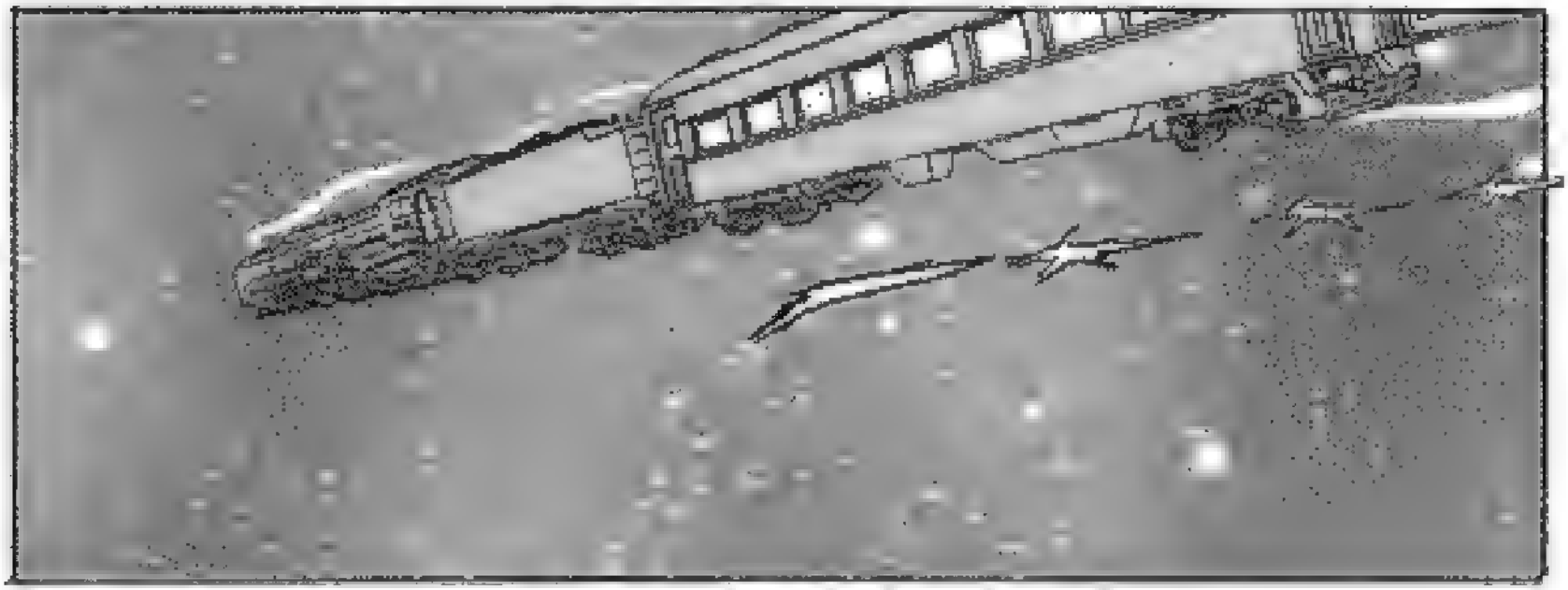


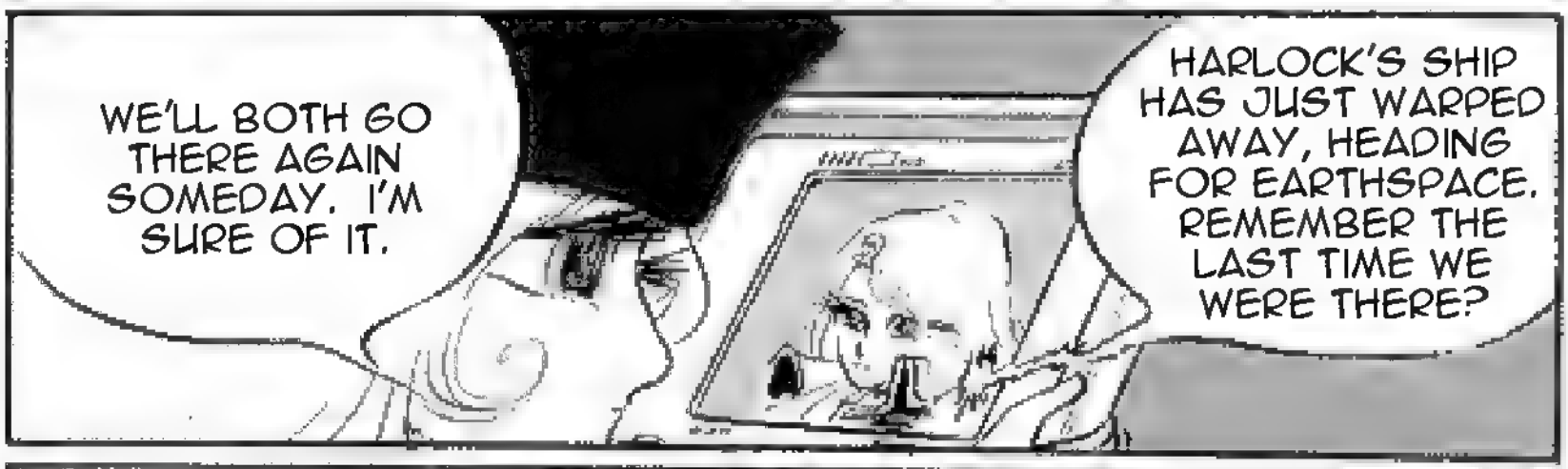
GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS ARE A MATTER OF COURSE IN THE SEA OF STARS ... BUT IN A UNIVERSE WHERE THE RINGS OF TIME CAN BEND AND EVEN CROSS, NO PARTING IS FOREVER. THE SAD THING IS THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW WHEN SUCH A REUNION WILL TAKE PLACE. THUS, PARTINGS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY SADNESS ....

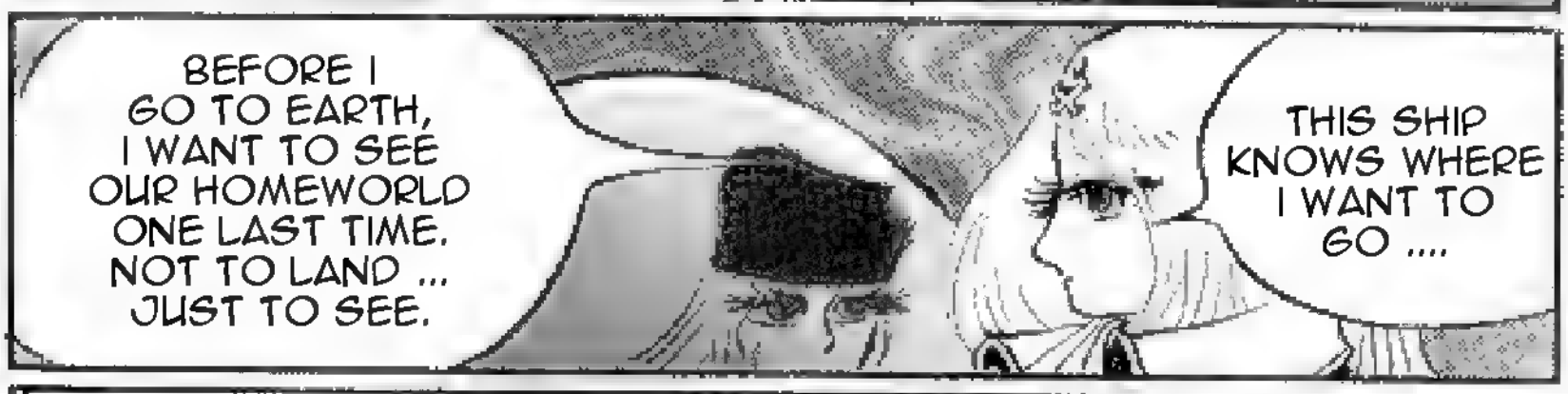


UNTIL THEN, IT SEEMS I MUST WANDER THE RINGS OF TIME ON MY OWN ....
I WONDER WHEN WE'LL MEET AGAIN, EMERALDAS ... PERHAPS WHEN THE DOOM OF VALHALLA DRAWS NIGH?

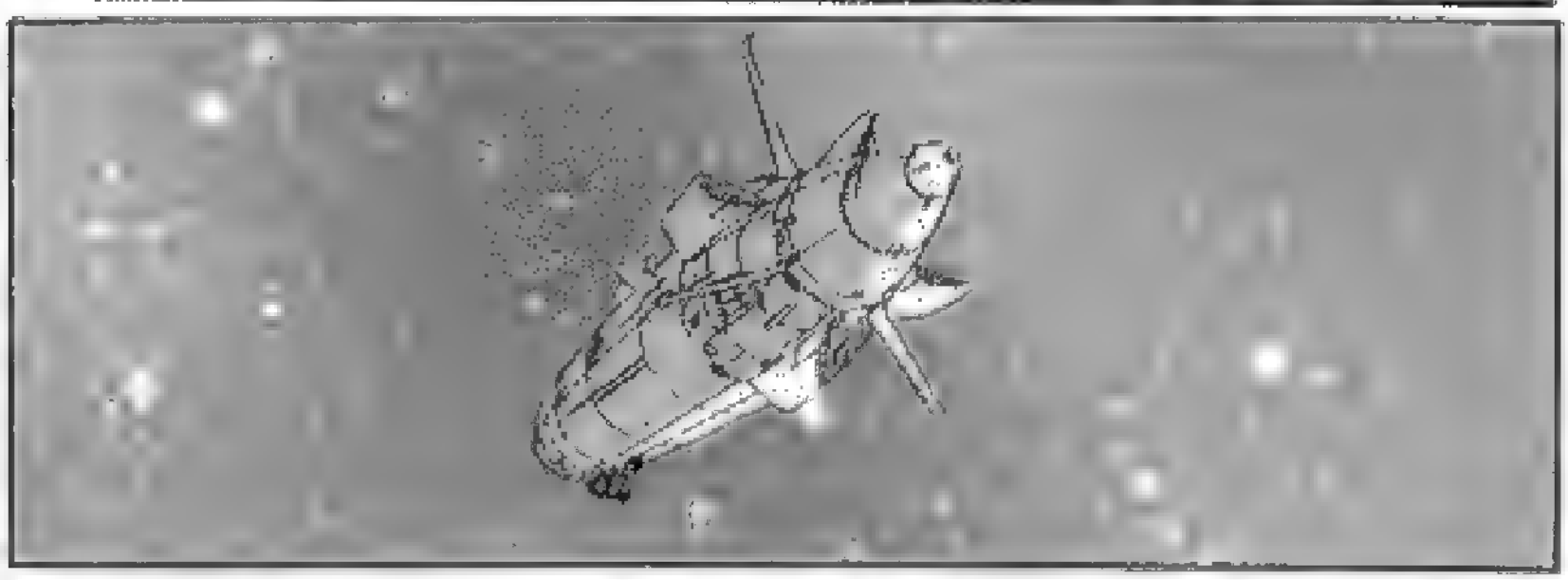


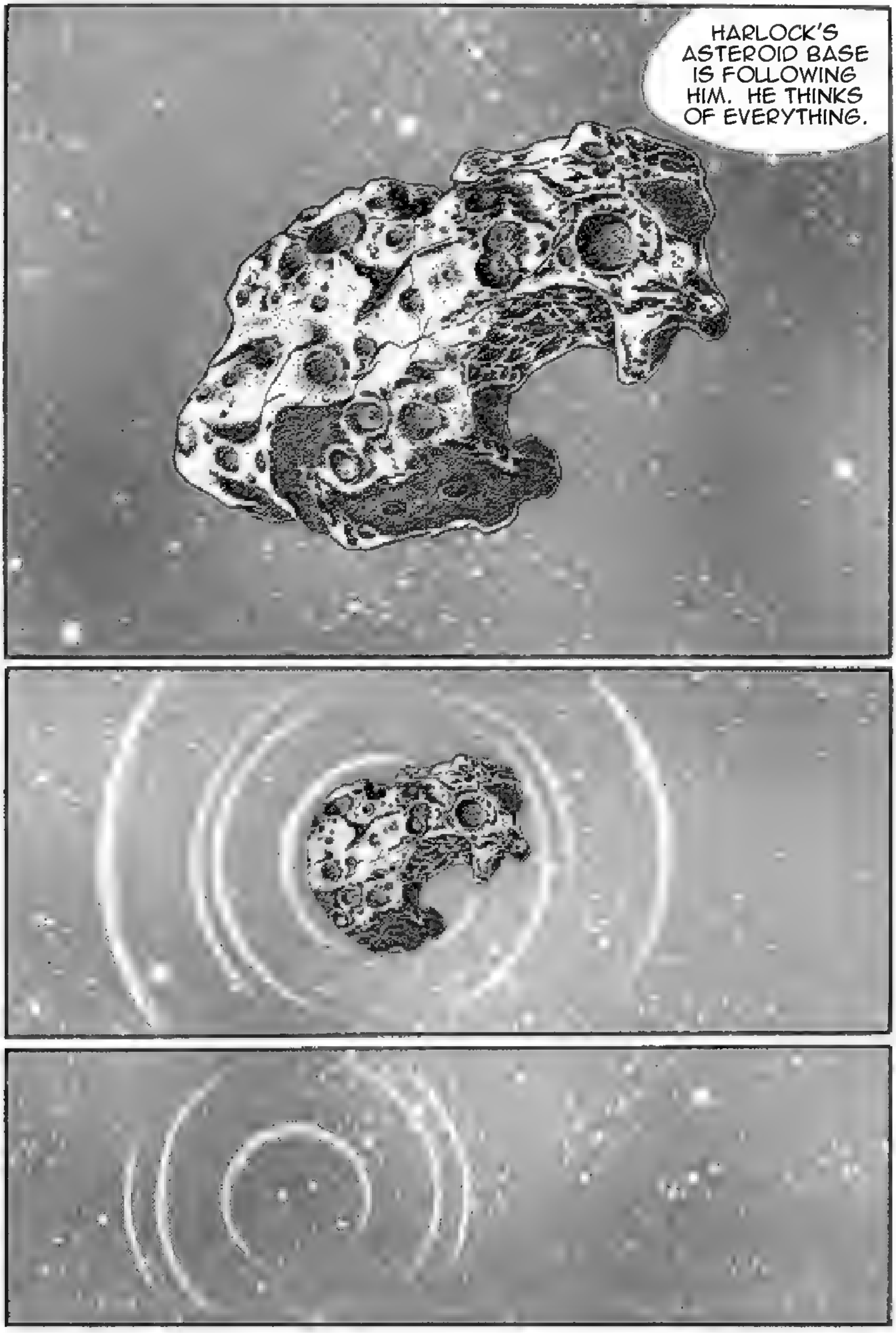



WE'LL BOTH GO THERE AGAIN SOMEDAY. I'M SURE OF IT.
HARLOCK'S SHIP HAS JUST WARPED AWAY, HEADING FOR EARTHSPACE. REMEMBER THE LAST TIME WE WERE THERE?


BEFORE I GO TO EARTH, I WANT TO SEE OUR HOMEWORLD ONE LAST TIME. NOT TO LAND ... JUST TO SEE.
THIS SHIP KNOWS WHERE I WANT TO GO ....

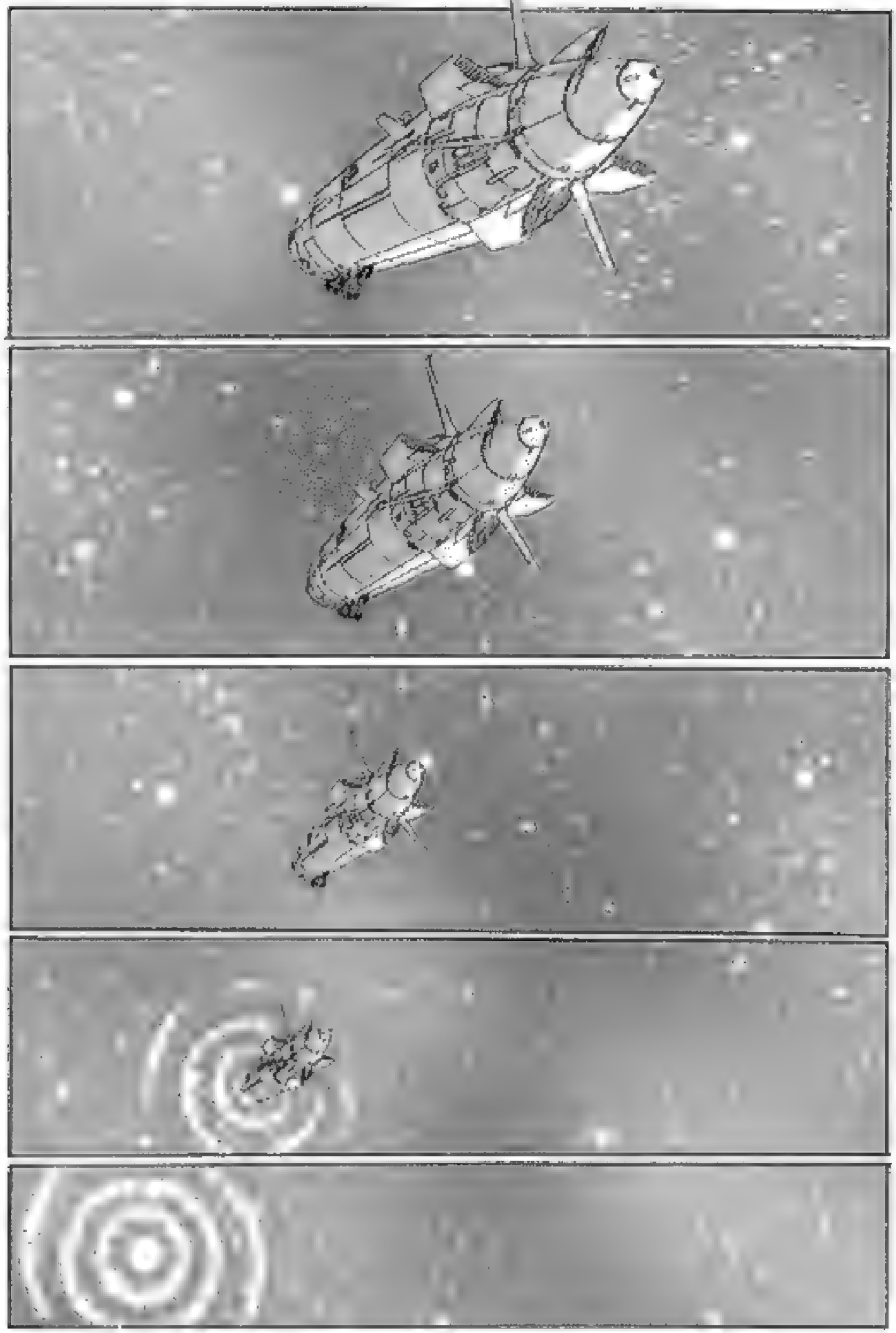
YOU'RE RIGHT -- WE'LL MEET THOSE TWO AGAIN SOMEDAY. UNTIL THEN, AND THEN AFTER ... WELL, WE HAVE OUR OWN ROADS TO TROD.
WE'RE BOTH DESTINED TO BE ETERNAL VOYAGERS, MAETEL.

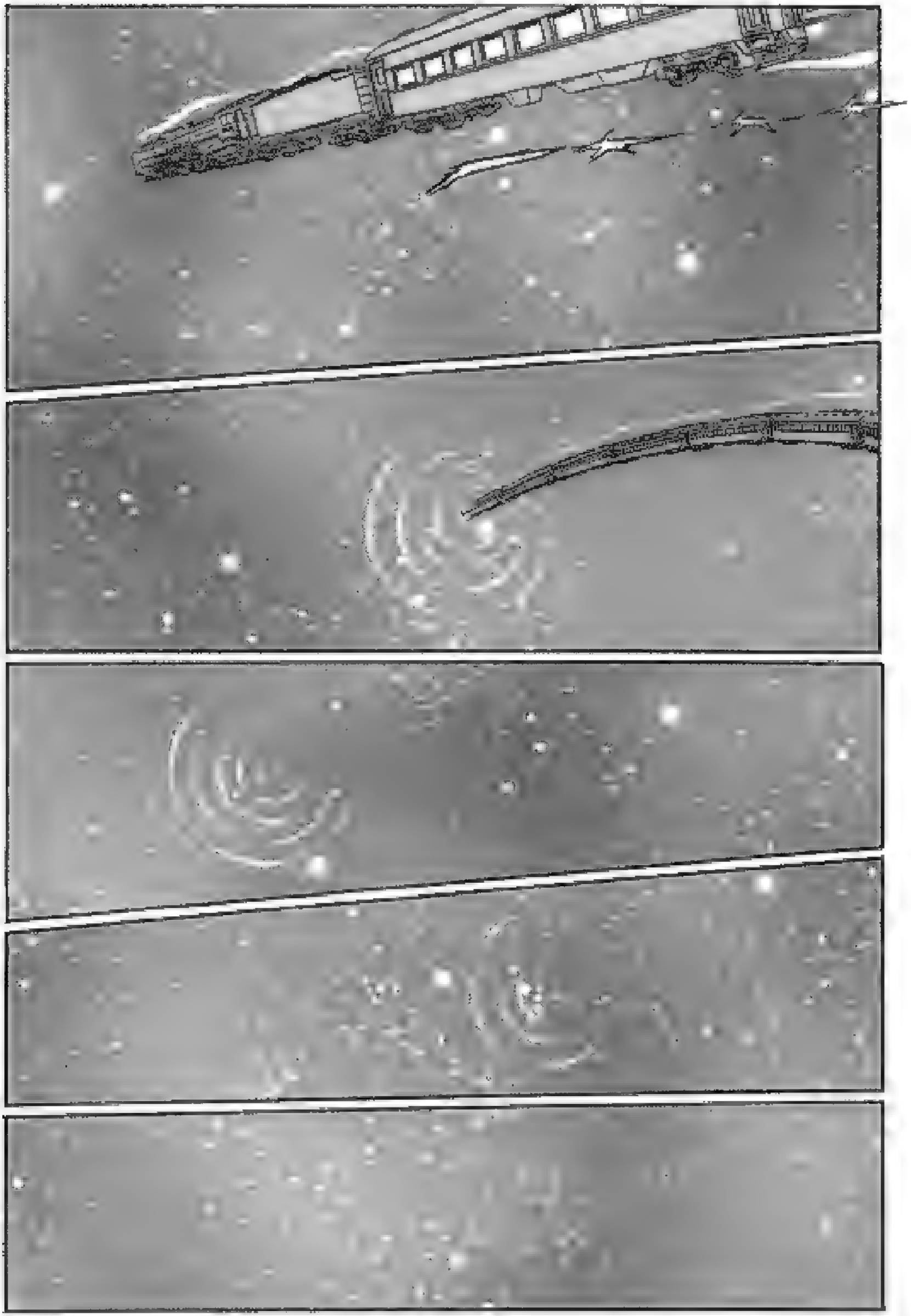



HARLOCK'S ASTEROID BASE IS FOLLOWING HIM. HE THINKS OF EVERYTHING.

GOODBYE, EMERALDAS ... UNTIL THEN ....

GOODBYE, MAETEL ... AND I PROMISE, THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN I WILL RIDE THE THREE-NINE WITH YOU AGAIN.





PROBABLY WARPED TO WHEREVER IT WAS THEY WANTED TO GO.

AND ALL OF THEM VANISHED? JUST LIKE THAT?!

HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT. OUR FRIEND ALBERICH DIDN'T SEEM TO BE HUNGRY.

OH, ERDA! I SEE YOU'VE DECIDED TO SKULK BACK IN HERE.

OH, WELL. LET THEM GO. ALBERICH WILL DEAL WITH THEM WHEN THE TIME COMES.

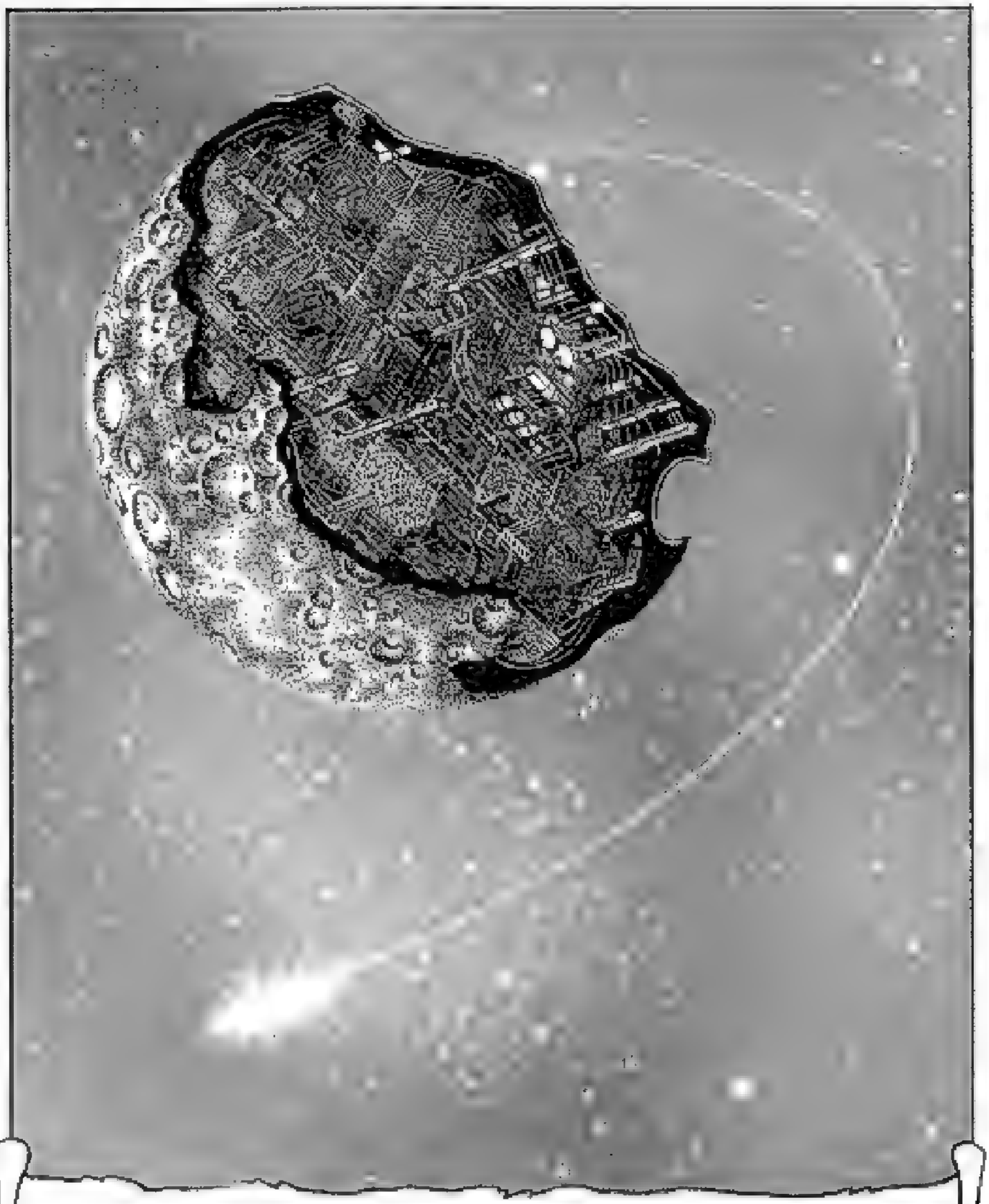
WHAT?

I CAME MERELY TO WATCH YOU RUSH TO YOUR DOWNFALL.

YOU HAVE WILLFULLY FOREGONE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO AVOID THIS ... AND NOW IT WILL SURELY HAPPEN. I CAME ONLY TO WATCH.

IT'S STARTING ... THE FIRST STEP HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN, LORD WOTAN -- AND YOU WERE THE ONE WHO MADE IT HAPPEN! DIDN'T I WARN YOU ABOUT ALBERICH?

SHE SOUNDS SO CERTAIN THIS TIME ...



AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, ALBERICH OF THE NIBELUNGEN BEGAN HIS ASCENT FROM VALHALLA. HIS SHIP LEFT A TRAIL IN THE SKY LIKE A SHOOTING STAR, AND THEN IT DISAPPEARED ... A SIGN IN THE SKY HEARLDING THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS.

A WILLFUL FOOL WILL REMAIN SO FOR ALL ETERNITY. WOTAN, LORD OF VALHALLA, IS SUCH A FOOL. HIS PRIDE HAS BLINDED HIM TO HIS UTTER INCOMPETENCE IN MANAGING THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNIVERSE -- SO IT RUNS ON WITHOUT HIM, AS IT HAS ALWAYS DONE. THAT SAME ARROGANCE BLINDS HIM TO THE THREAT THAT CAPTAIN HARLOCK AND HIS FRIENDS TRULY POSE ... A POWER THAT WILL SOON BE MARSHALLED TO DESTROY VALHALLA ITSELF.

WOTAN, I WARN YOU FOR THE LAST TIME. DO NOT WIELD THE POWER OF THE RHINEGOLD.

IF YOU DO, THEN YOU GUARANTEE THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS. THAT IS ALL.

THAT IS ALL? YOU'VE SAID THAT EVERY TIME YOU'VE MADE ONE OF THESE PROCLAMATIONS! I SEE NO HARM IN IT! ALBERICH WANTS BACK IN MY FAVOR! HE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!!

ONCE I GET THE RING AND USE IT ON HARLOCK, THAT'LL BE THAT.

I AM INVINCIBLE! VALHALLA IS IMPREGNABLE! HARLOCK WILL FAIL!!

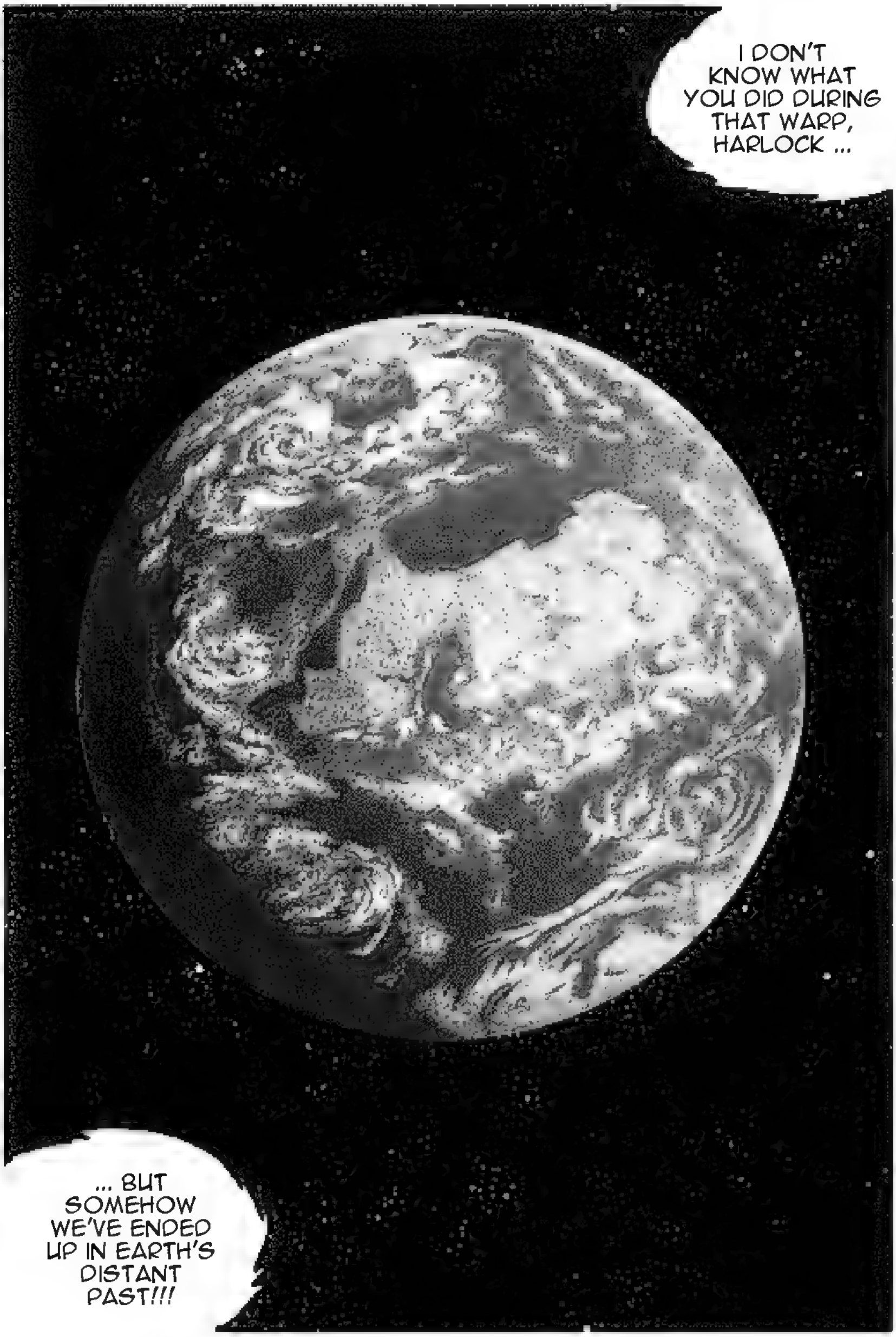
I SEE YOU ARE BEYOND EITHER ADVICE OR HELP NOW, WOTAN. I SHALL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR OWN DEVICES.

GOODBYE. WE SHALL NOT MEET AGAIN.

I'LL WIN, ERDA! YOU'LL SEE!

YEAH, WELL YOU BETTER SLOW DOWN, OR YOU'LL OVERSHOOT THE SOLAR SYSTEM.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE EARTH AGAIN, TOCHIRO.

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! THE LOCATION'S RIGHT, BUT THAT'S NOT THE EARTH!
THAT LOOKS LIKE THE MOON, BUT WHY IS IT IN SUCH A TIGHT ORBIT AROUND THAT WORLD?
HEY NOW ... THOSE CONTINENTS! THAT'S PANGAEA!


I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DID DURING THAT WARP, HARLOCK ...
... BUT SOMEHOW WE'VE ENDED UP IN EARTH'S DISTANT PAST!!!

WE'VE SWEPT THROUGH SEVENTY MILLION YEARS OF EARTH HISTORY IN JUST A FEW MINUTES!!!
LOOK AT THEM! WE MUST LOOK LIKE A SHOOTING STAR TO THOSE BRUTES.

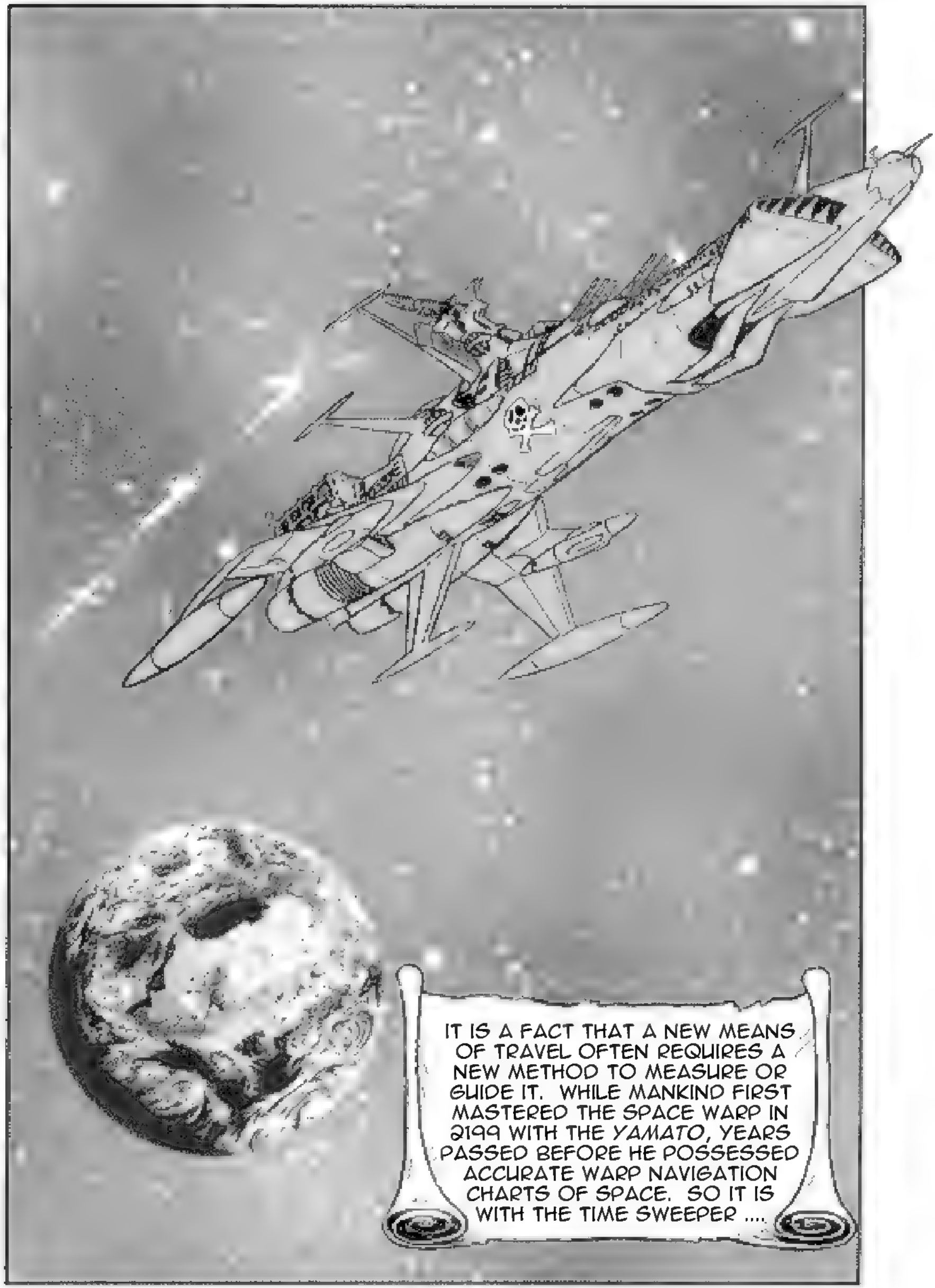
I STUMBLED ON? HEY, YOUR FATHER DESIGNED IT AND YOU BUILT IT! ALSO, IF YOU DON'T FIGURE OUT A WAY FOR US TO REVERSE THE PROCESS AND GET BACK AGAIN, WE'RE STUCK HERE!!

IT'S THE NEW DRIVE SYSTEM, I'M SURE OF IT! SOME INSTABILITY YOU STUMBLED ON HAS RESULTED IN OUR VERY OWN TIME SWEEPER!!!

TIME SWEEPER - A DEVICE FIRST POSTULATED AT THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY FOR MOVING FOWARDS AND BACKWARDS IN TIME, "SWEEPING ACROSS THE WAVES OF TIME IN WHATEVER PROBABILITY TRACK THE HAND THAT WIELDS IT WISHES." SO IT WAS POSTULATED AT THE TIME. THIS IS THE DEVELOPMENT IN HUMANS THAT WOTAN HAS MOST FEARED -- THE ABILITY TO MASTER TIME. "MASTER," DID I SAY? FOR YOUNG HARLOCK AND TOCHIRO, MASTERY OF TIME IS STILL AN OPEN ISSUE ....

Götterdämmerung

Ring 62 – Brother and Sister

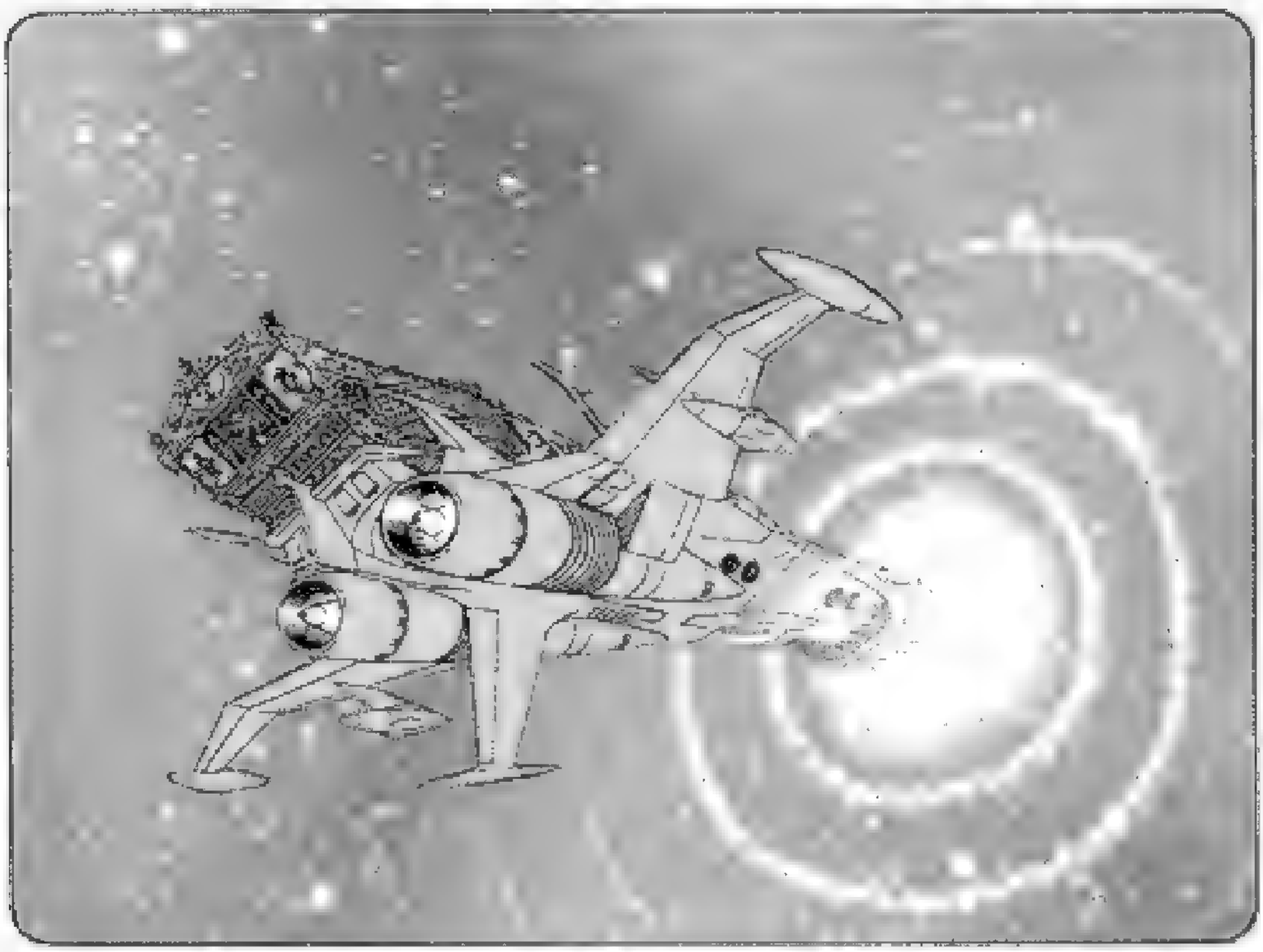

IT IS A FACT THAT A NEW MEANS OF TRAVEL OFTEN REQUIRES A NEW METHOD TO MEASURE OR GUIDE IT. WHILE MANKIND FIRST MASTERED THE SPACE WARP IN 2199 WITH THE YAMATO, YEARS PASSED BEFORE HE POSSESSED ACCURATE WARP NAVIGATION CHARTS OF SPACE. SO IT IS WITH THE TIME SWEEPER ....

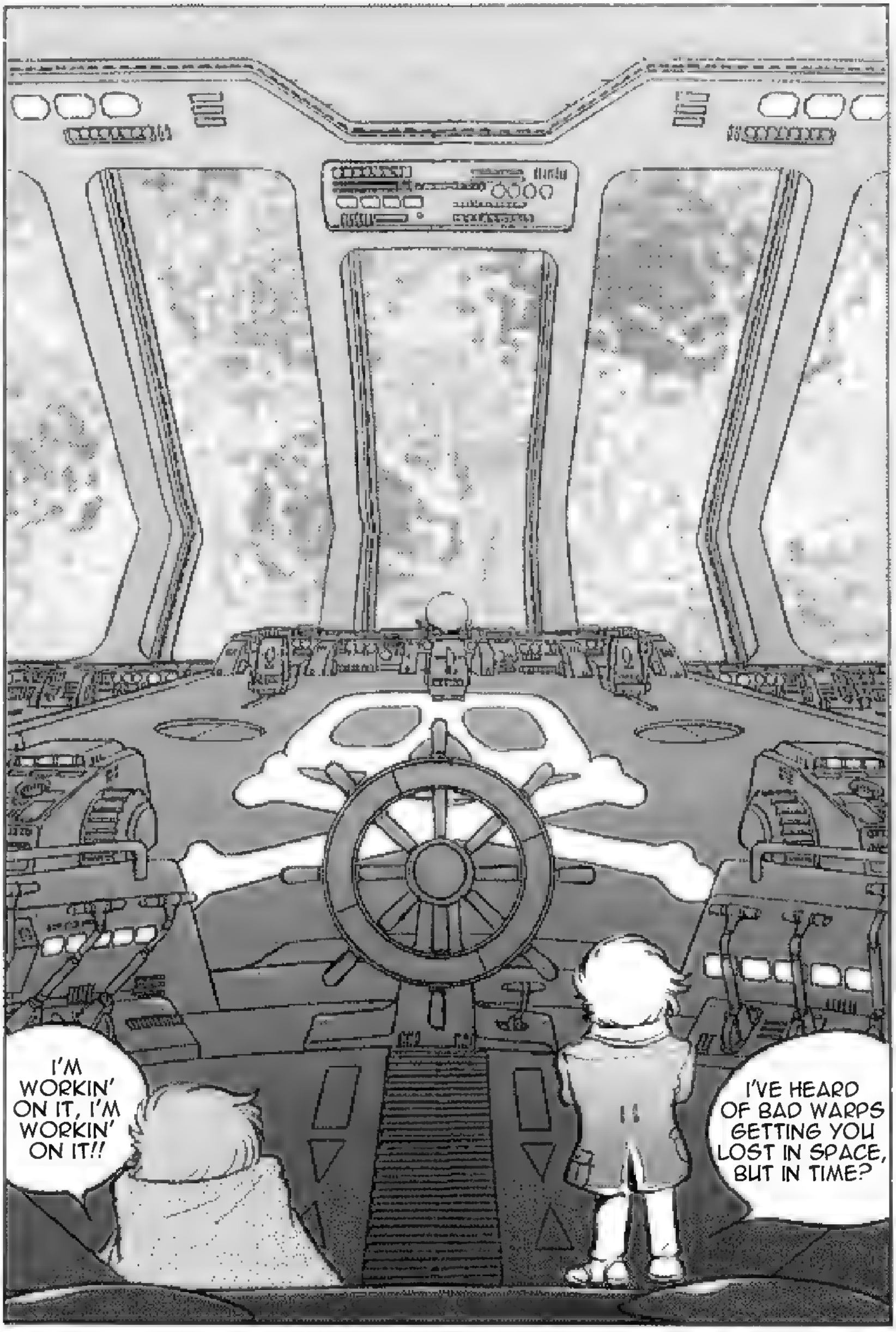
MIIME'S ON RHINE, AND WE CAN'T GET THERE LIKE THIS.

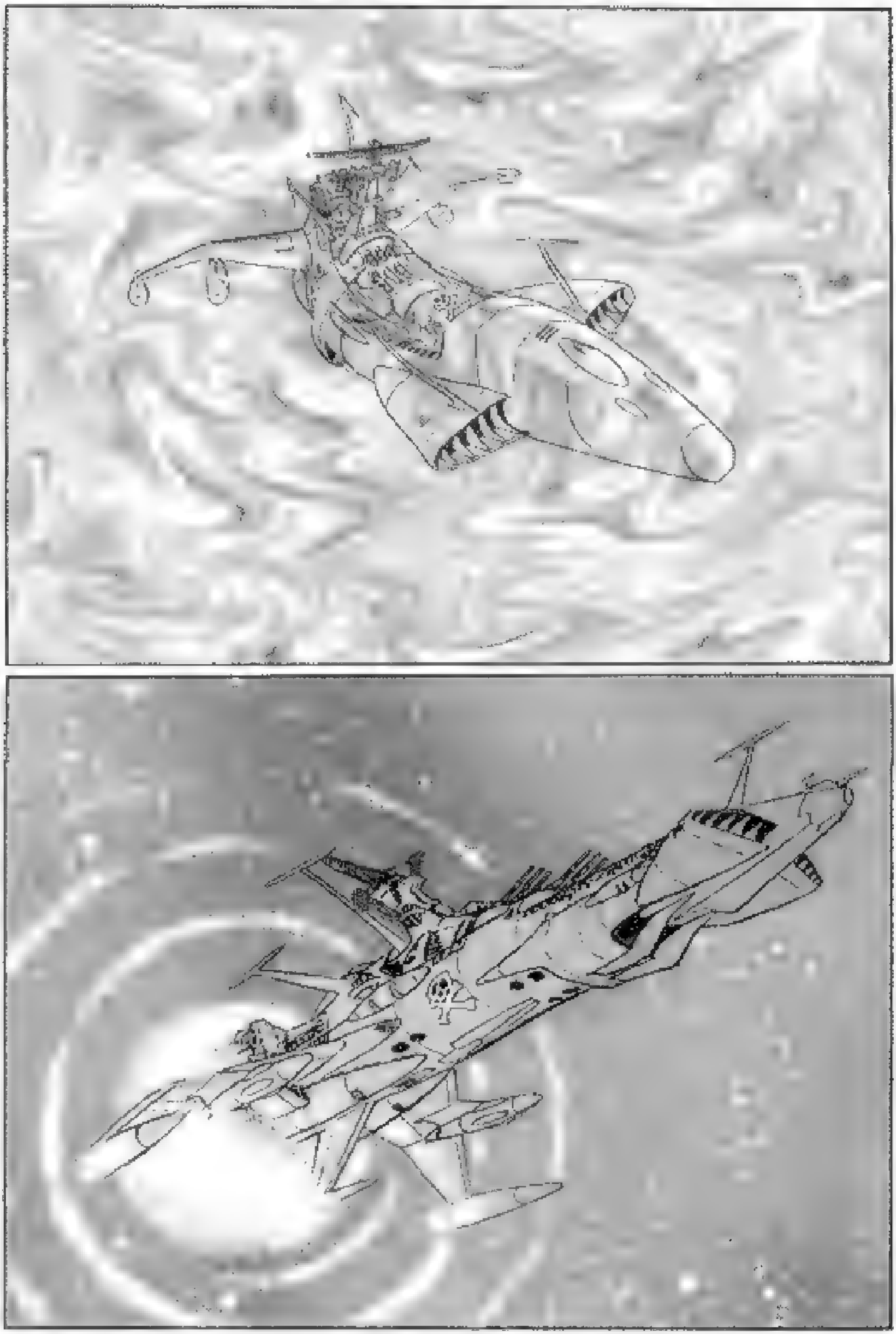
IF ONLY MIIME WERE HERE, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE SCREWED UP THE WARP.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO GET HER, TOCHIRO?

OF COURSE! BUT SHE'S GOT A JOB TO DO ... SO I GUESS I'D BETTER STOP BELLYACHIN' AND DO THIS RIGHT MYSELF.




I'M WORKIN' ON IT, I'M WORKIN' ON IT!!
I'VE HEARD OF BAD WARPS GETTING YOU LOST IN SPACE, BUT IN TIME?



YES, MY LORD -- JUST NOW.

YOU SAY THE SECOND *DEATH SHADOW* HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL SPACE AND TIME?

WELL ... AT LEAST *THAT'S* SOME GOOD NEWS THIS DAY.

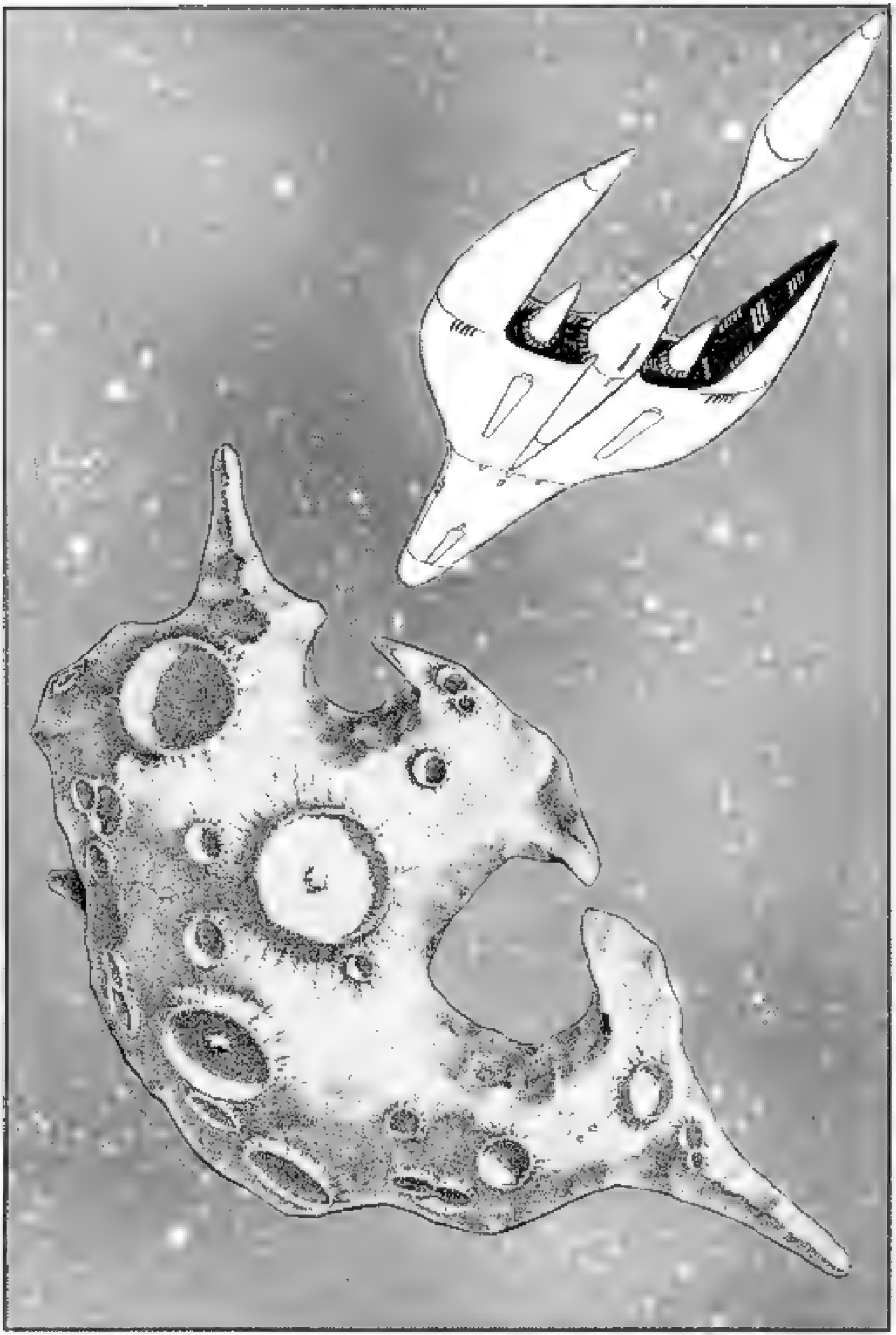
THE VALKYRIES ALSO RETURN, MY LORD, ACCEPTING THE PARDON YOU OFFERED THEM EARLIER. ALL EIGHT SURVIVING VALKYRIES HAVE COME BACK TO VALHALLA.

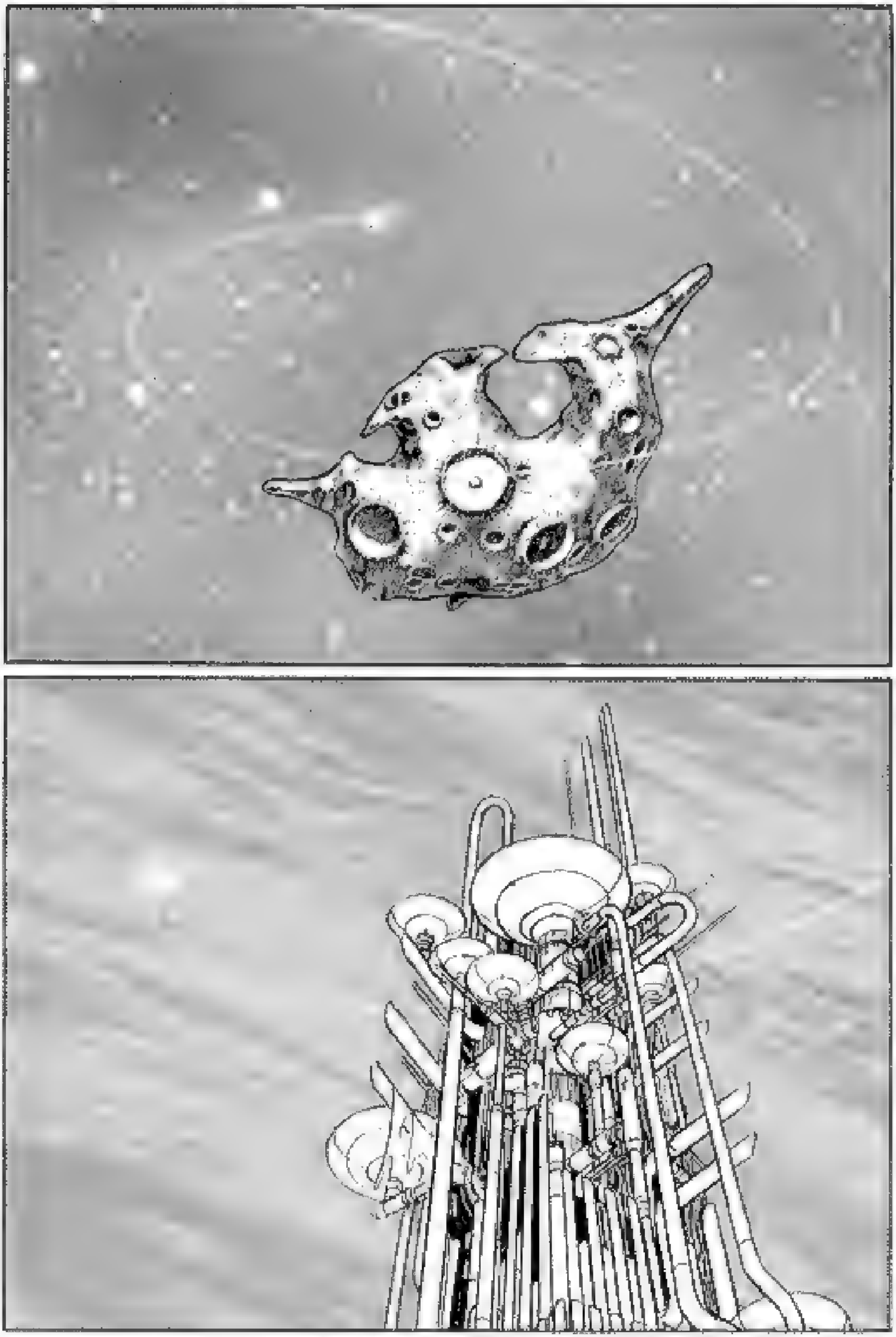
OH, MY BRUNHILDE! I MISS YOU ALREADY!

I WISH I COULD UNDERSTAND WHY IN HEAVEN MY BELOVED BRUNHILDE FELL IN LOVE WITH A MORTAL.

HE HAS ALREADY TRAVERSED INTO THE PAST, AND IS PREPARING TO ENTER RHINE'S GRAVITY FIELD.

BY THE WAY, WHERE IS ALBERICH? *OUR* ALBERICH, OF THIS TIME AND PLACE?





THEN YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE! STAND ASIDE OR BE BURNED ALIVE!!!

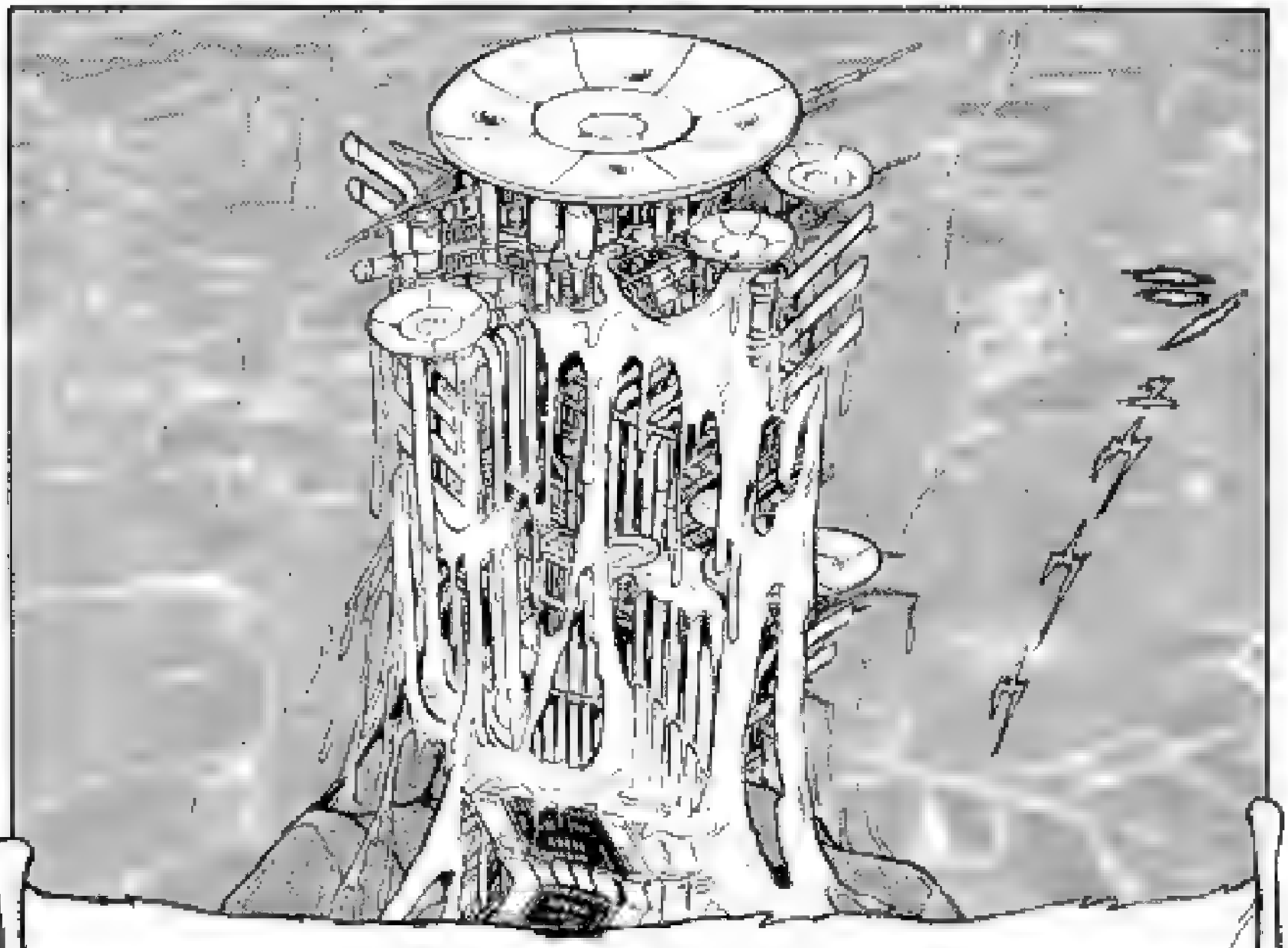
AND IF I REFUSE? WOULD YOU DESTROY ME TOO -- YOUR OWN SISTER? I THINK NOT, ALBERICH.

THEN I WILL NOT WASTE MY WORDS. CEASE YOUR PLAYING OR I WILL DESTROY THE ORGAN!

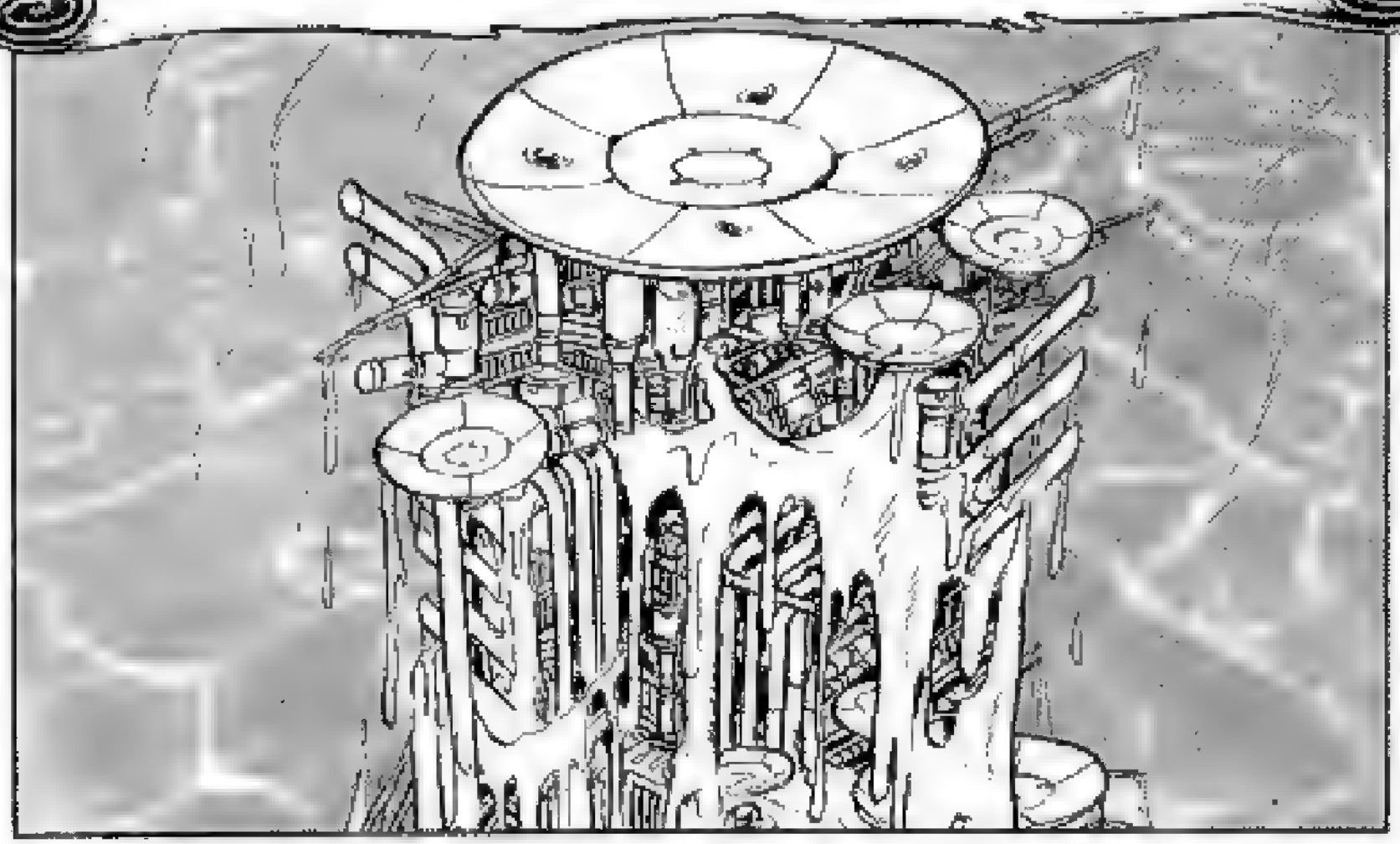
MIIME! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

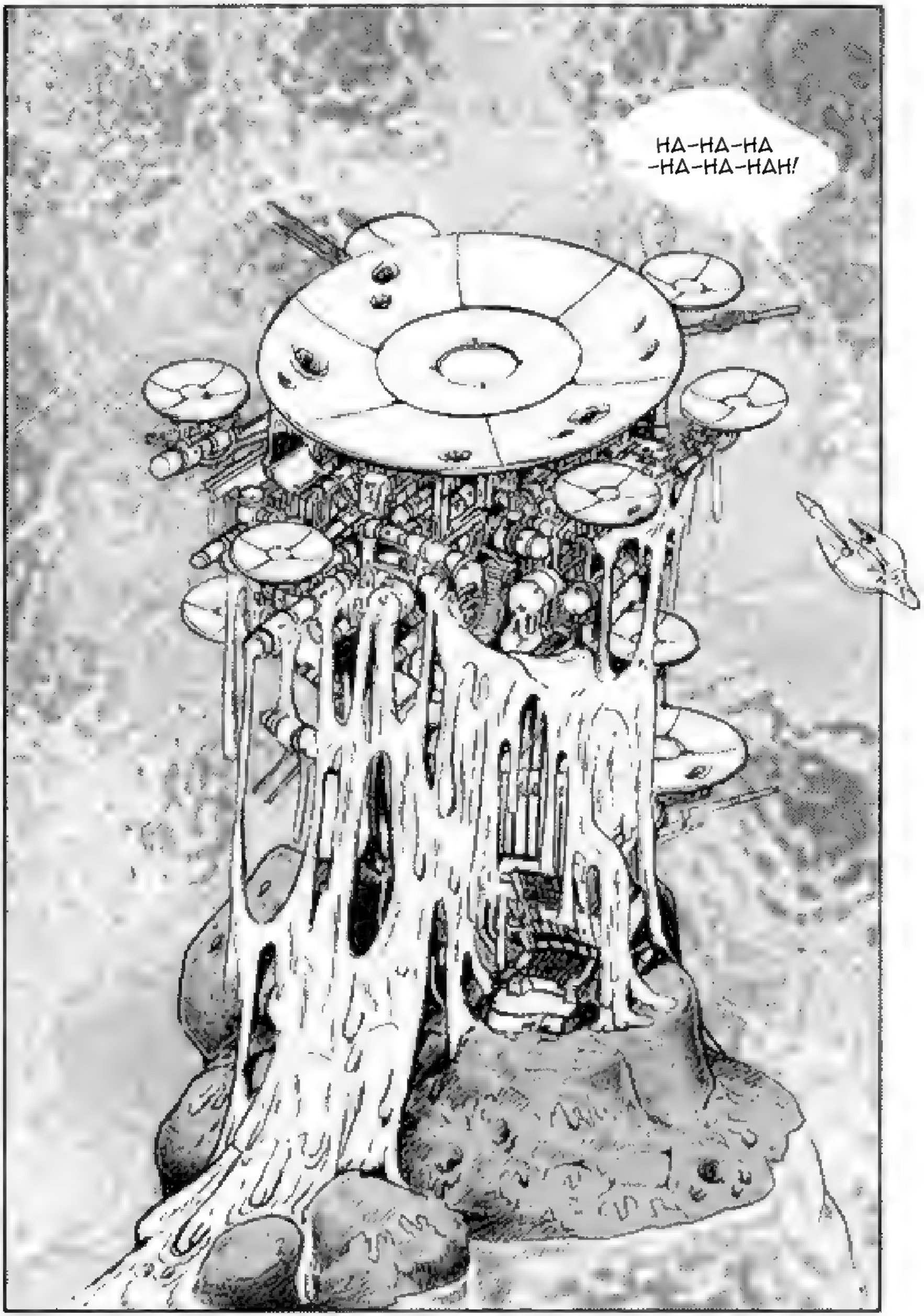
BACK SO SOON, BROTHER? I'M AFRAID I CANNOT HELP YOU.

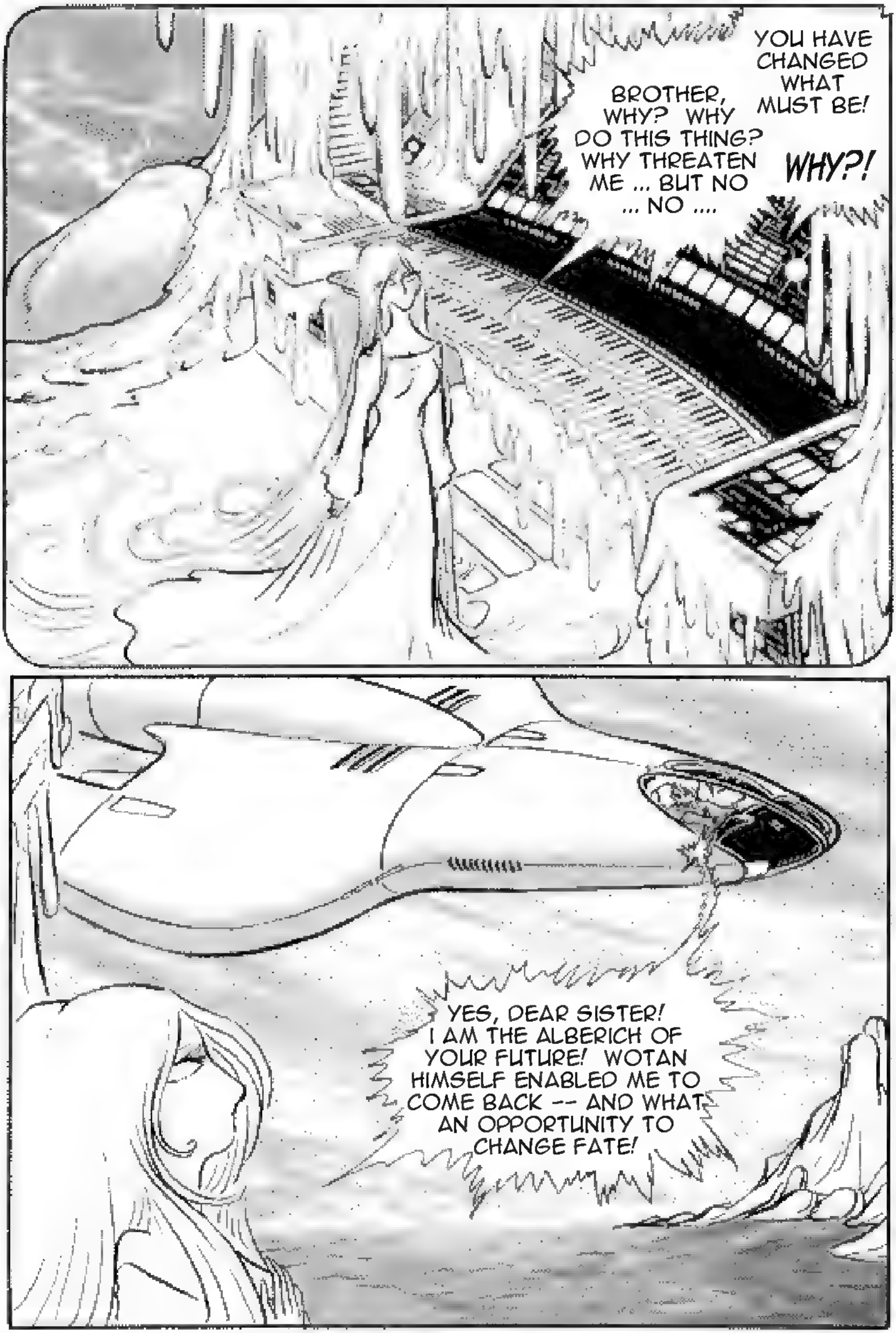
THERE IS NONE BETTER SUITED TO CARRY OUT CRUEL, WICKED, AND SADISTIC ACTS WITH UTTER IMPUNITY AS THE MAN WHO HAS SOLD HIS SOUL. SUCH A MAN IS PRINCE ALBERICH OF THE NIBELUNGEN. HE LIVES IN A WORLD OF HIS OWN DREAMS, FULL OF PETTY SCHEMES AND PROFIT-MAKING. RETRIBUTION IS NOT LONG IN COMING, HOWEVER ... WHETHER HE WILLS IT OR NOT.



AND SO THE BENT RING OF TIME IS BENT YET AGAIN, AS THE REPAIRED ORGAN ON THE PLANET RHINE IS DESTROYED *BEFORE* ITS APPOINTED TIME. WHILE THIS CHANGE IS NOT AS SIGNIFICANT AS WOTAN'S EARLIER EFFORT, IT TOO WILL HAVE AN IMPACT -- ESPECIALLY ON HE WHO WHO BROUGHT IT ABOUT.




HA-HA-HA
-HA-HA-HAH!


YOU HAVE CHANGED WHAT MUST BE!
BROTHER, WHY? WHY DO THIS THING? WHY THREATEN ME ... BUT NO ... NO ....
WHY?!
YES, DEAR SISTER! I AM THE ALBERICH OF YOUR FUTURE! WOTAN HIMSELF ENABLED ME TO COME BACK -- AND WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE FATE!

TELL ME, FUTURE BROTHER - ARE YOU HERE TO STEAL THE RHINEGOLD?

SO, WOTAN HIMSELF BENDS THE RINGS OF TIME. INDEED, THIS EXPLAINS MUCH THAT HAS HAPPENED.

MY INNER EYELIDS HAVE CLOSED TO PROTECT ME FROM THE FURY OF MY OWN ORGAN PLAYING.

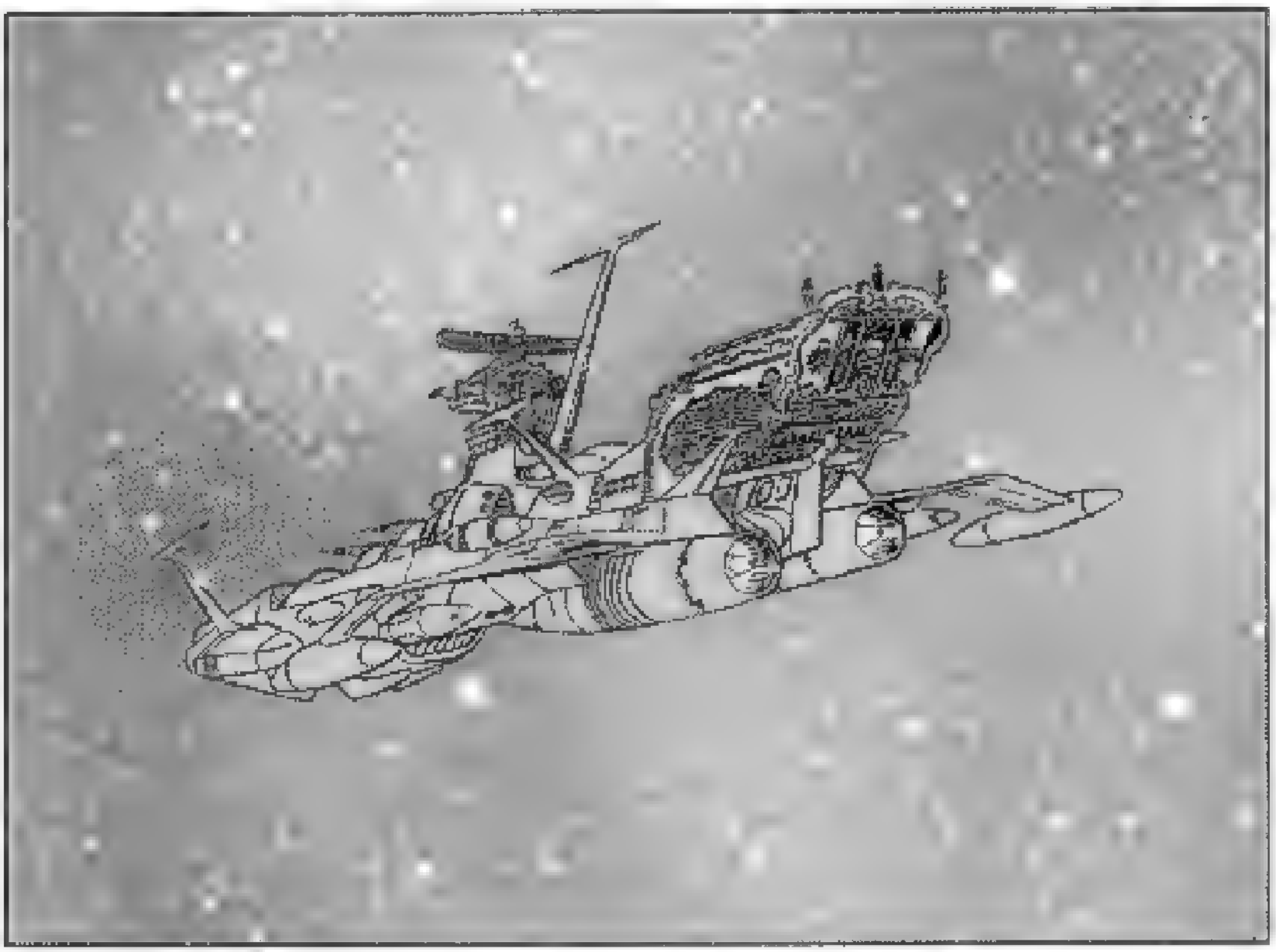
OF COURSE? WHY ELS WOULD I WASTE MY TIME--WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR EYES, MIIME?!

YOU MUST HAVE DESTROYED THE ORGAN BEFORE AT THE PROPER TIME. THIS IS TOO EARLY, BROTHER ...

ALL YOU HAVE DONE IS WARN THE RHINEMAIDENS OF YOUR PLANS.

THIS ORGAN CAN STILL BE REPAIRED ... AND FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED, AS THE HUMANS SAY. TOO BAD, BROTHER ....

LORD WOTAN? THE SECOND *DEATH SHADOW* IS NOW ALSO HEADED FOR THE PLANET RHINE.
AT LAST! THAT DAMMED ORGAN HAS STOPPED PLAYING ON RHINE! ALBERICH IS GOOD FOR SOMETHING AFTER ALL!



I INTEND TO FIND OUT!

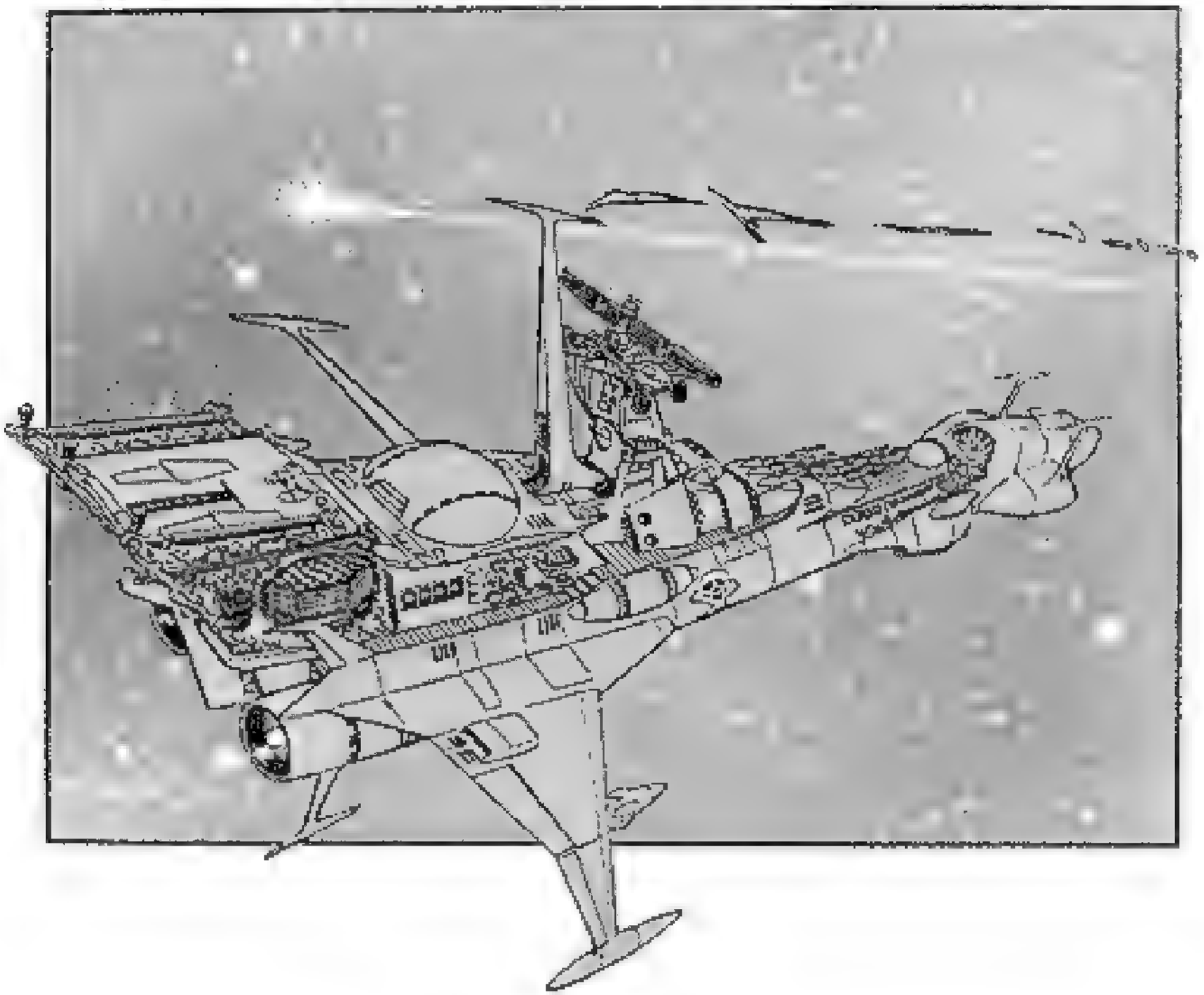
WHY DID MIIME STOP PLAYING SO SUDDENLY?

HEY, THAT'S WEIRD ....

WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MIIME -- AND IF NECESSARY, PROTECT THE RHINEGOLD OURSELVES!

A WAVE GRAVITY PULSE?! WHY?!?

H-H-HARLOCK? MIIME'S PLAYING AGAIN -- AND JUST LOOK AT THAT ENERGY WAVE SHE'S PUTTING OUT OF THAT THING!!!



I DUNNO, BUT IT JUST CAME FROM RHINE AND IT'S GETTING READY TO WARP!

WHAT IN TH--? WHOSE SHIP?!

THAT WAS MY BROTHER!! HE HAS STOLEN THE RHINEGOLD AND IS HEADING FOR EARTH!!! CATCH HIM IF YOU CAN!!!

YOUNG HARLOCK! YOUNG TOCHIRO!!

I AM FINE. MY EYES -- A NATURAL PROTECTION FROM HIGH ENERGY. I HAVE MADE SUFFICIENT REPAIRS TO THE ORGAN TO RESUME PLAYING. DO NOT LET MY BROTHER REACH EARTH WITH THE RHINEGOLD!

MIIME?! ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT'S WITH YOUR EYES?!

THEN WE'D BETTER GET AFTER HIM!

THERE ARE ONLY A HANDFUL OF PLACES IN THE UNIVERSE WHERE THE RHINEGOLD CAN BE FORGED INTO A RING. EARTH IS ONE OF THESE.

THEY'RE ... GONE, MIIME. THEY, AND BRUNHILDE, AND THE ENEMY FLEET THEY FOUGHT ... VANISHED IN FLAME ....

WHAT ... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FATHERS? PLEASE ... TELL ME.

DON'T CRY, MIIME! WE'RE TAKING UP WHERE THEY LEFT OFF! SOMEDAY, WE CAN ALL CRY TOGETHER!

OH, NO ....

THANK YOU, MIIME. IT'S AN HONOR.

I OWE THEM MUCH ... AND TO YOU I VOW: IF I EVER AM ABLE TO LEAVE HERE, THEN I WILL SERVE YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS TO THE REST OF MY DAYS.

HARLOCK, I'VE SET THE SHIP TO FOLLOW ALBERICH NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES IN SPACE OR TIME!

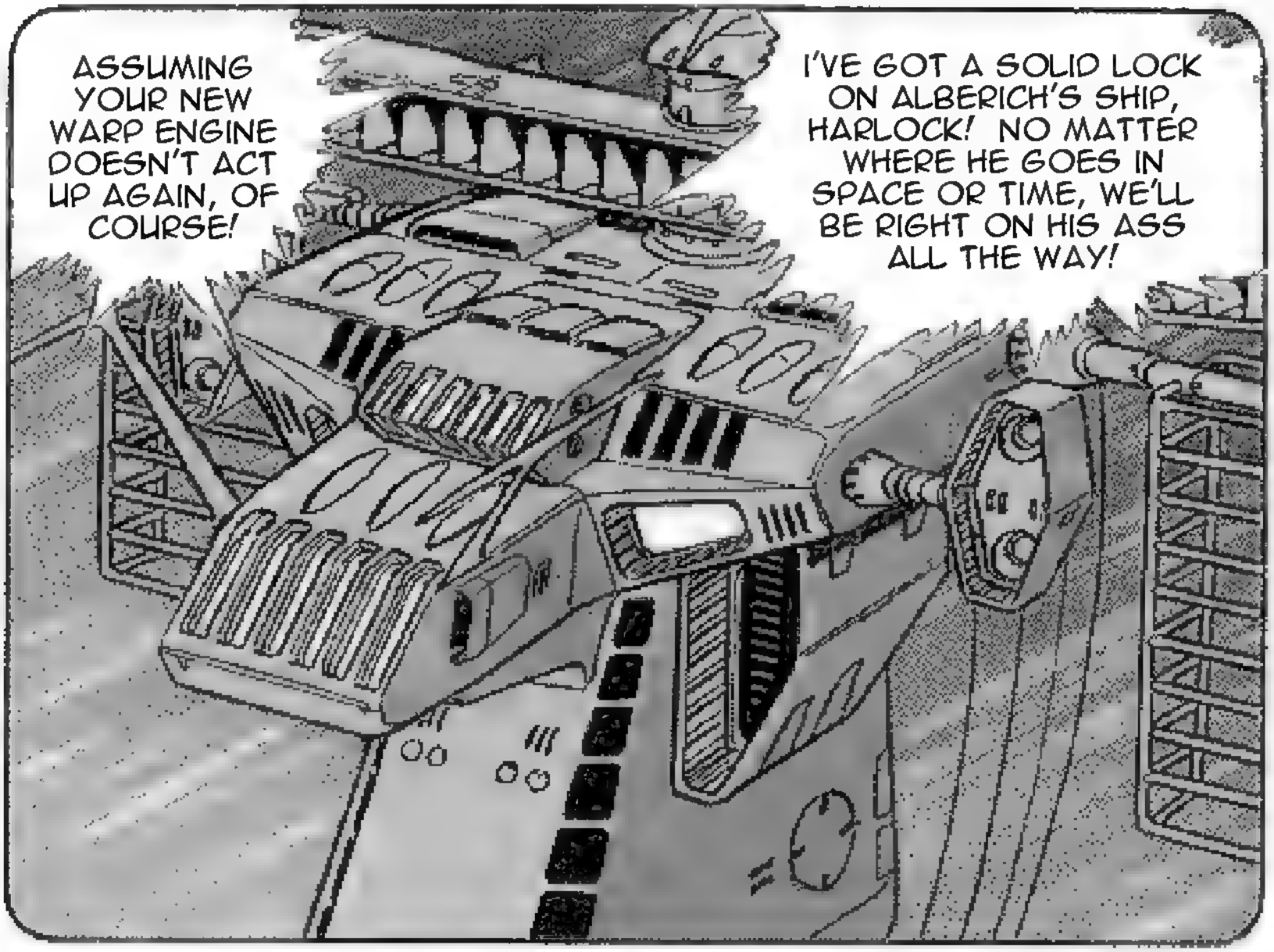
HERE WE GO, MY FRIEND!!

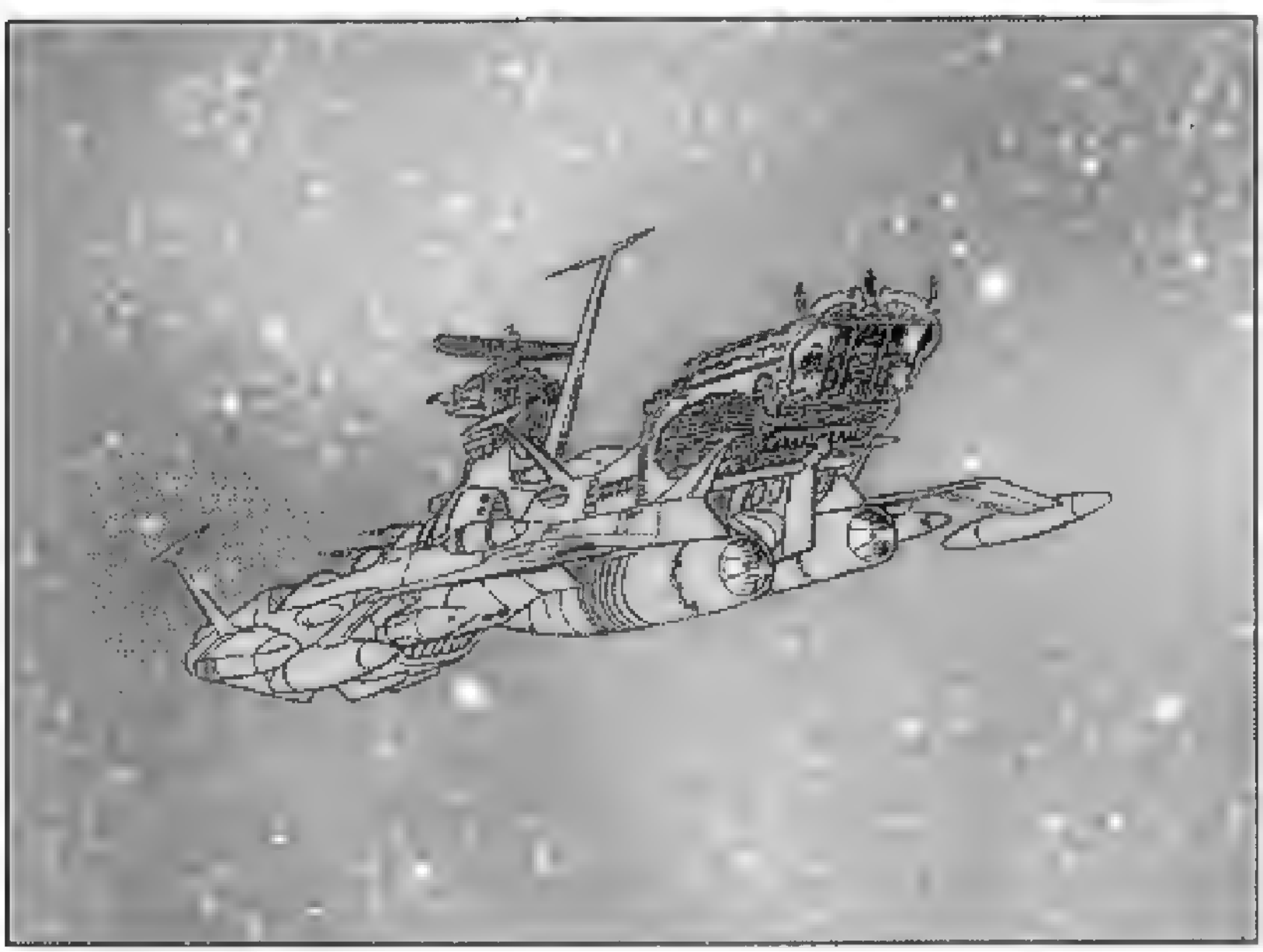
THE ARROW HAS BEEN LOOSED IN FLIGHT ... THE METEOR OF DOOM STREAKS ACROSS THE HEAVENS ... AND THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS THUS BEGINS IN EARNEST. THIS MARKS THE START OF THE TALE OF CAPTAIN HARLOCK, AND TOCHIRO OYAMA HIS FRIEND, AS THEY CAME INTO THEIR OWN AND BECAME LEGENDS IN THEIR OWN TIME.

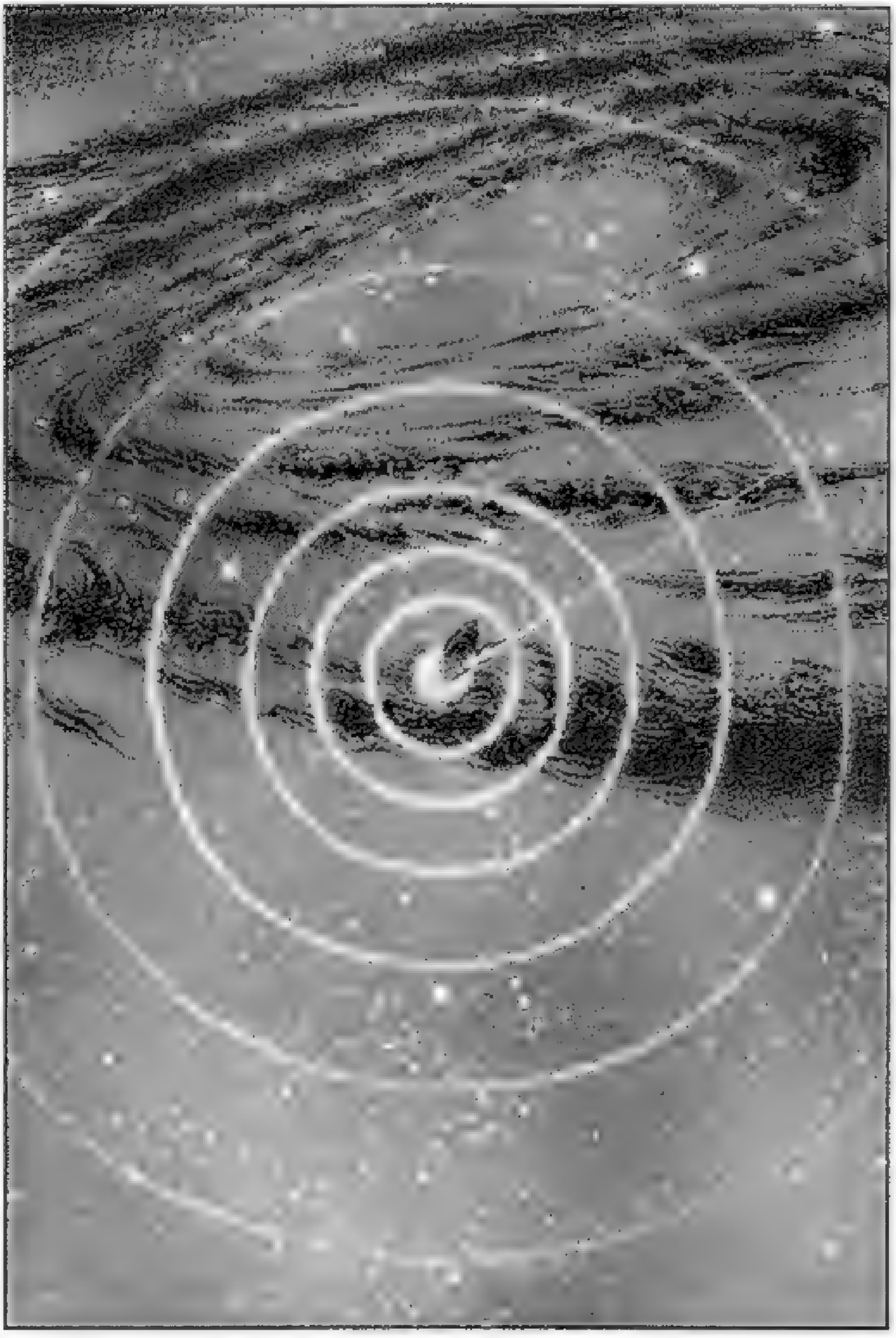
Götterdämmerung

Ring 63 – Return to Earth

SPACE WARPS ARE THE HARDEST PART OF JOURNEYING AMONG THE STARS. THE SLIGHTEST MISTAKE CAN PUT YOUR WARP EXIT POINT INSIDE THE CORE OF YOUR DESTINATION PLANET -- OR EVEN WORSE, ITS SUN.


ASSUMING YOUR NEW WARP ENGINE DOESN'T ACT UP AGAIN, OF COURSE!
I'VE GOT A SOLID LOCK ON ALBERICH'S SHIP, HARLOCK! NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES IN SPACE OR TIME, WE'LL BE RIGHT ON HIS ASS ALL THE WAY!





WHAT'S GOING ON? THAT'S A TIME RIPPLE -- BUT I HAVEN'T DONE A THING!!!
MY LORD WOTAN! THE BENT RING HAS BENT AGAIN! ALBERICH MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING!
WOTAN EXPECTED THAT ALBERICH WOULD ACT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN DESIRES. WHAT HE DID NOT EXPECT WAS FOR HIM TO ATTEMPT TO CHANGE HIS OWN FUTURE. THIS DEED WILL AFFECT BOTH THEIR FATES.

IT'S EARTH! OUR EARTH! LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE SPOT-ON THIS TIME, TOCHRIO! JUST LIKE MIIME SAID!

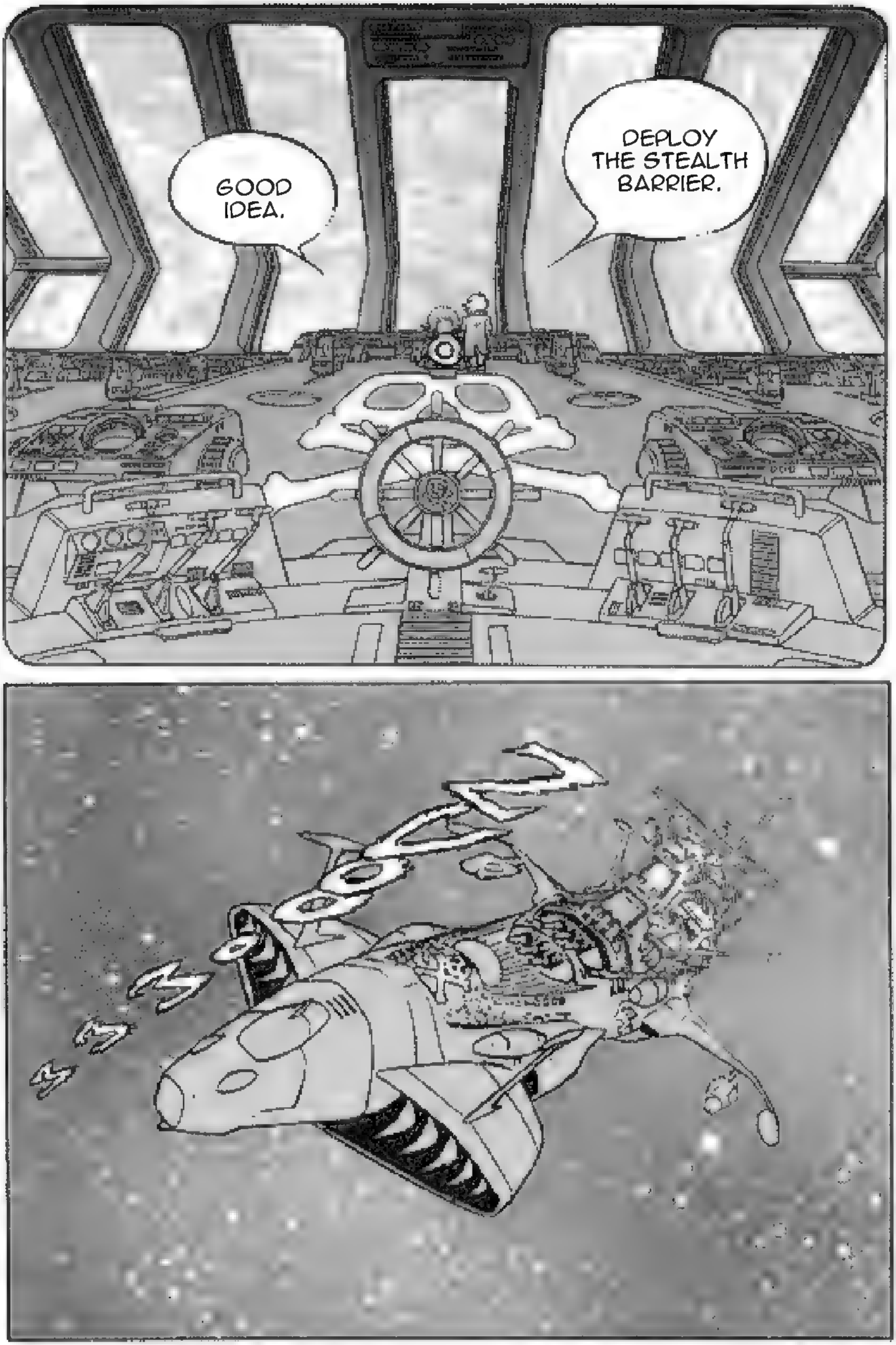
MOTHER EARTH ... THE CRADLE OF HUMANITY ... THE PLACE WHERE BOTH OF US WERE BORN ....

YOU KNOW ... I WISH DAD COULD BE HERE ... TO COME HOME WITH US.

YEAH ... *SNIF* ... ME TOO ... *SNIFFLE* I'M SORRY I'M CRYIN', BUT *SNIF* I'M JUST ....

I'VE SENT THE PIRATE'S ISLE *SNIF* TO A PARKING ORBIT NEAR PLUTO, IN CASE WE NEED IT.

IT'S OKAY. I FEEL THE SAME.


GOOD IDEA.
DEPLOY THE STEALTH BARRIER.

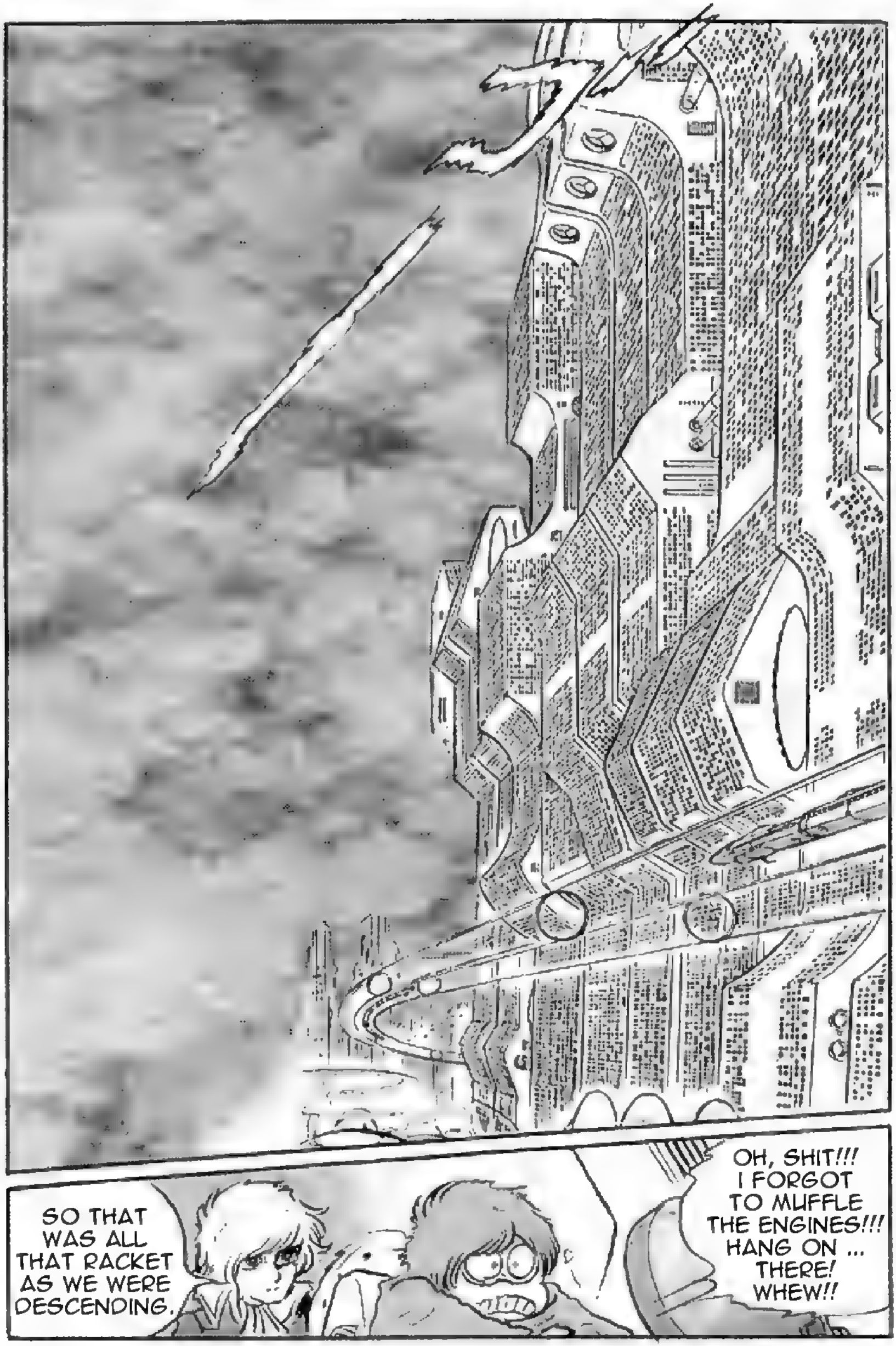
AND AS THE *DEATHSHADOW* OF YOUNG HARLOCK BEGINS ITS DESCENT TO EARTH ...

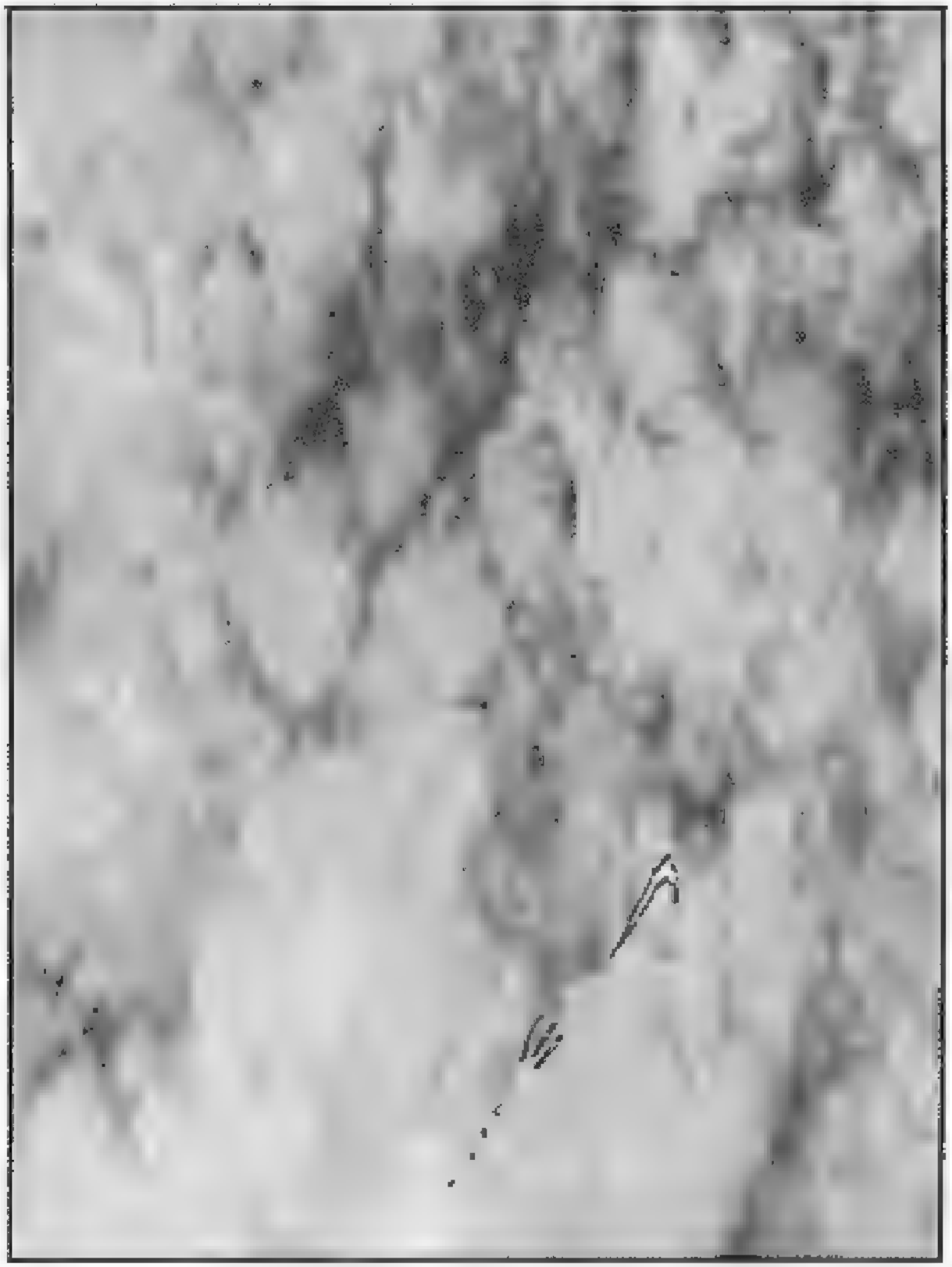
... IT FADES AWAY, DISAPPEARING FROM BOTH SIGHT AND SCAN BY ANY INSTRUMENT ....

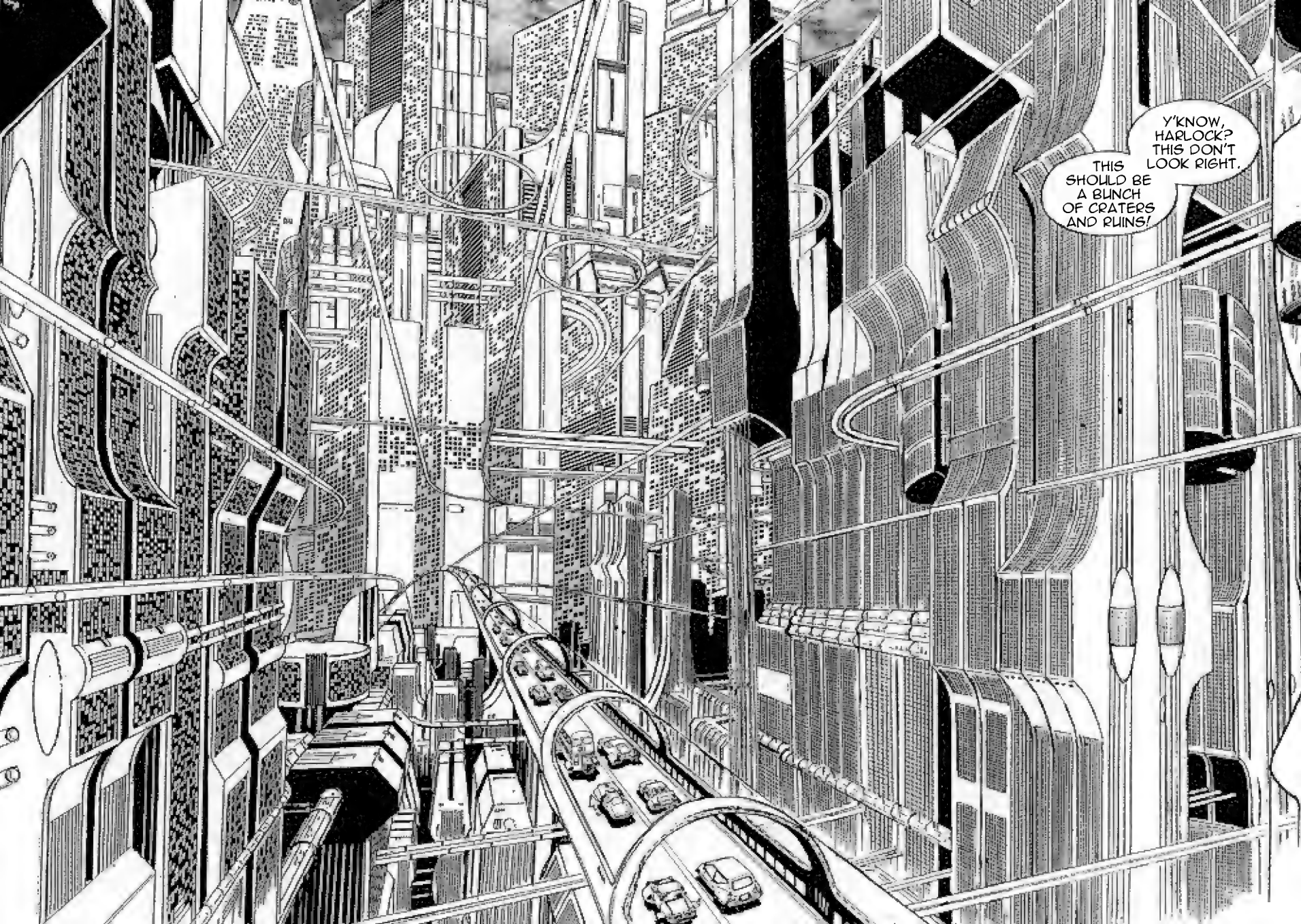
THE EARTH IS SO BEAUTIFUL, WHEN YOU LOOK AT IT FROM UP HERE!

I'LL BET THE HUMANS ARE TOO ABSORBED TO LOOK UP, AND THE METANOIDS ARE PROBABLY SHITTING BRICKS.

HEY, YOU'VE ONLY GOT THE STEALTH SCREEN AT 0.3%! THEN AGAIN ... NOBODY'S COMING UP AFTER US.


SO THAT WAS ALL THAT RACKET AS WE WERE DESCENDING.
OH, SHIT!!! I FORGOT TO MUFFLE THE ENGINES!!! HANG ON ... THERE! WHEW!!




Y'KNOW, HARLOCK? THIS DON'T LOOK RIGHT.
THIS SHOULD BE A BUNCH OF CRATERS AND RUINS!

THE EARTH HAS HAD TIME TO REBUILD.

HMMM ... LEMME DO SOME SCANS ... A-HA! WE'RE TEN YEARS IN OUR OWN FUTURE! IT'S THE YEAR 2974!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH TIME LOOPS ALREADY TO LAST ME A LIFETIME.

JUST A SEC -- THANK GOD. NO SIGN OF OUR FUTURE SELVES.

NATURALLY. THEY'D HAVE INFILTRATED JUST ABOUT EVERYWHERE BY NOW.

I'M READING METANOIDS ALL OVER THE PLACE!

THE DAIBA LABS, IN TOKYO. TSUYOSHI'S DAD IS AN EXPERT AT THAT SORT OF THING.

IF YOU WERE ALBERICH, WHERE WOULD YOU GO TO FORGE A RING?

THEY'RE SO SMUG! PROBABLY TURNED THE DEEP SPACE SCANS OFF!

WHAT?! YOU SAY THE COSMIC ORGAN ON RHINE IS PLAYING AGAIN, AND AT MAXIMUM STRENGTH?!

MIIME MUST HAVE REPAIRED IT! WHAT IS SHE UP TO?

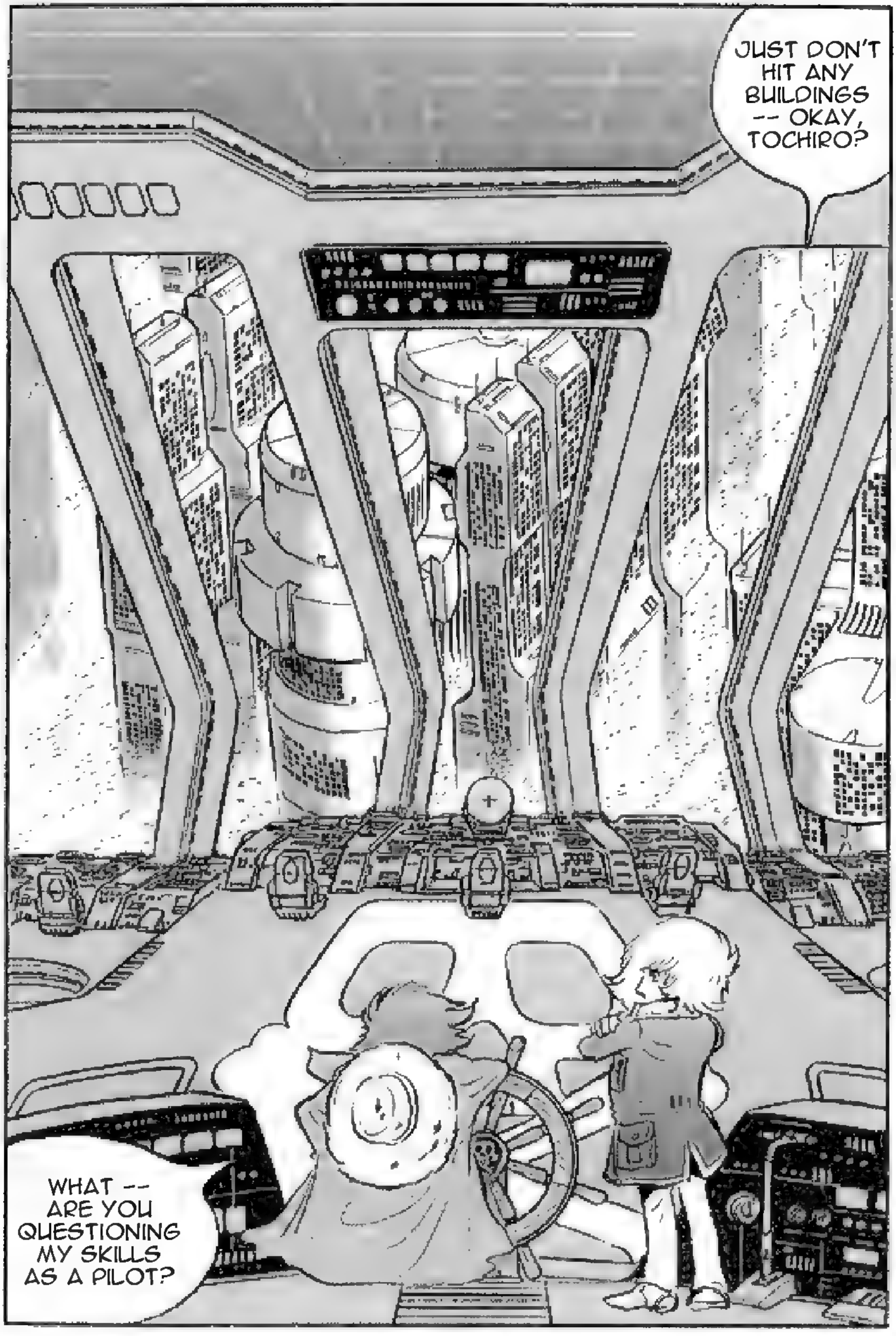
VALHALLA IS SHAKING, MY LORD.

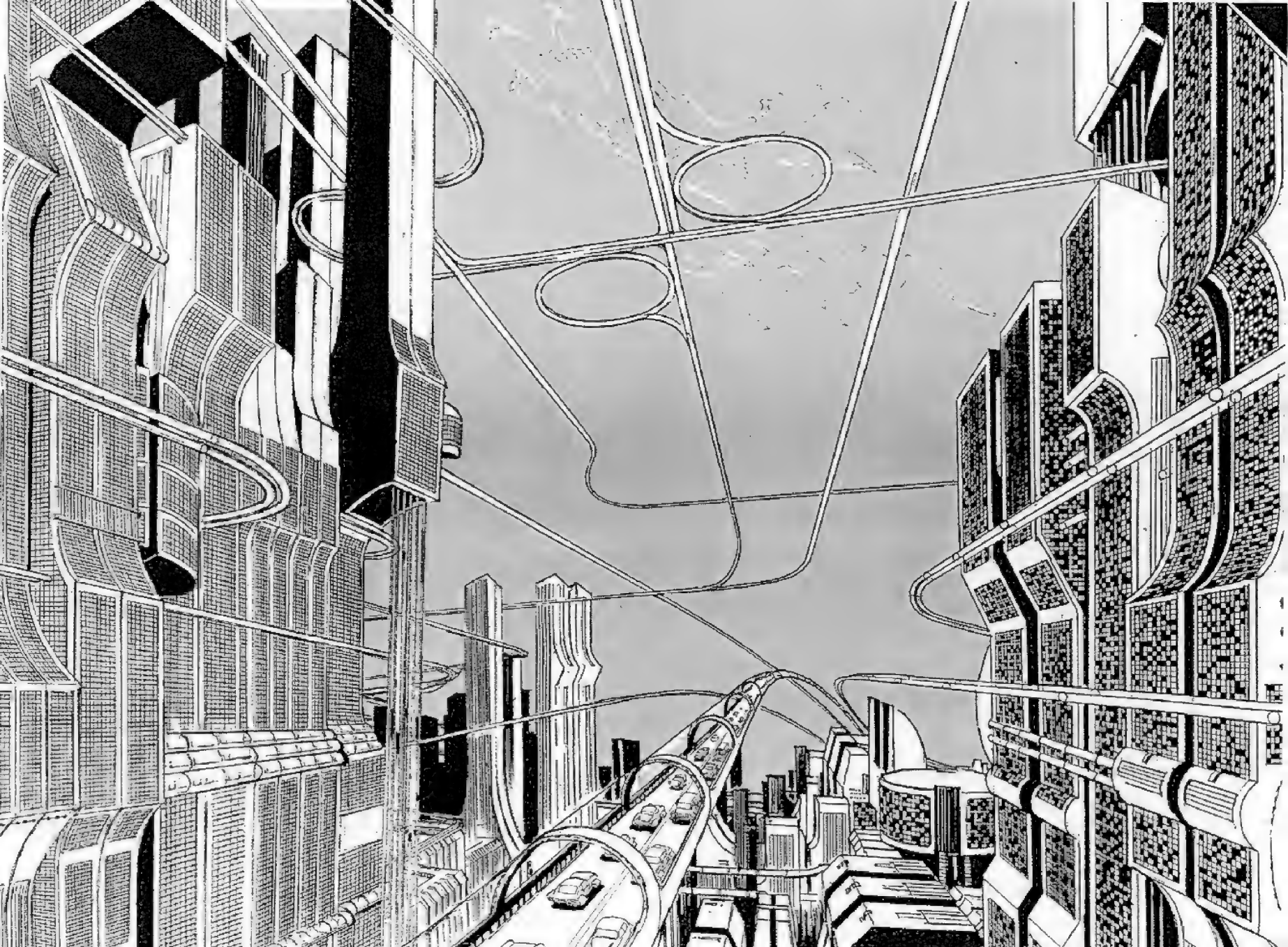
I MUST HELP FREYA TO RESTABILIZE THIS RING OF TIME ...

... AND I MUST ALSO WEAVE A NEW THREAD INTO ITS FABRIC ... TO REPAIR THE ONE THAT ALBERICH WOULD BREAK.

MY BROTHER HAS DOOMED HIMSELF ... AND NOW, IN THIS NEW PATTERN, I ALONE SURVIVE OF OUR KIN ....

AS FORETOLD BY ERDA THE WISE, ALBERICH HAS JUMPED AT HIS SECOND CHANCE TO STEAL THE RHINEGOLD. THIS TIME HE DOES SO IN THE PAST, AND HOPES TO REWRITE THE FUTURE HE HAS ALREADY LIVED IN THE PROCESS. YET EVEN THIS BOLD ACT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SWAY FATE AND FORESTALL THE DOOM OF VALHALLA. IF SO MIGHTY A PERSONAGE AS WOTAN WAS UNABLE TO CHANGE THE DESTINY OF CAPTAIN HARLOCK, HOW COULD PROUD AND SELFISH ALBERICH?


JUST DON'T HIT ANY BUILDINGS -- OKAY, TOCHIRO?
WHAT -- ARE YOU QUESTIONING MY SKILLS AS A PILOT?



YUP. THE OCTAGON. IT'S THE BUILDING THAT NOW SERVES AS THE MILITARY HQ FOR THE TERRESTRIAL FEDERATION, PER MY SCANS.
IS THAT WHERE WE'RE HEADING?
THE NAME COMES FROM THE EIGHT DOCK ARMS FOR STARSHIPS RINGED AROUND ITS CENTER SECTION. KINDA LIKE THE WAY CAN-AM'S PENTAGON WAS NAMED IN OLD EARTH HISTORY.

ACCORDING TO MY SCANS, THE POLICE FORCES ARE BETTER EQUIPPED THAN THEY ARE. TALK ABOUT A BUNCH OF PATHETIC LOSERS! THEY'LL BE NO TROUBLE.

SOME MILITARY EARTH'S FUTURE HAS GOT. THEY CAN'T SPOT A TEN-YEAR-OLD STARSHIP WITH A STEALTH SCREEN THAT'S ALMOST NIL?!?

THE DAGGER WILL BE AT THE OLD DEFENSE BUILDING. NO CLUE AS TO ALBERICH'S LOCATION.

ANY IDEA AS TO ALBERICH'S LOCATION? AND I ALSO WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE DAD'S DAGGER IS LOCATED.

SURE! WHY NOT! AS LONG AS IT'S BIG 'N' FLASHY!! THAT'S THE WAY WE OYAMAS DO THINGS!!!

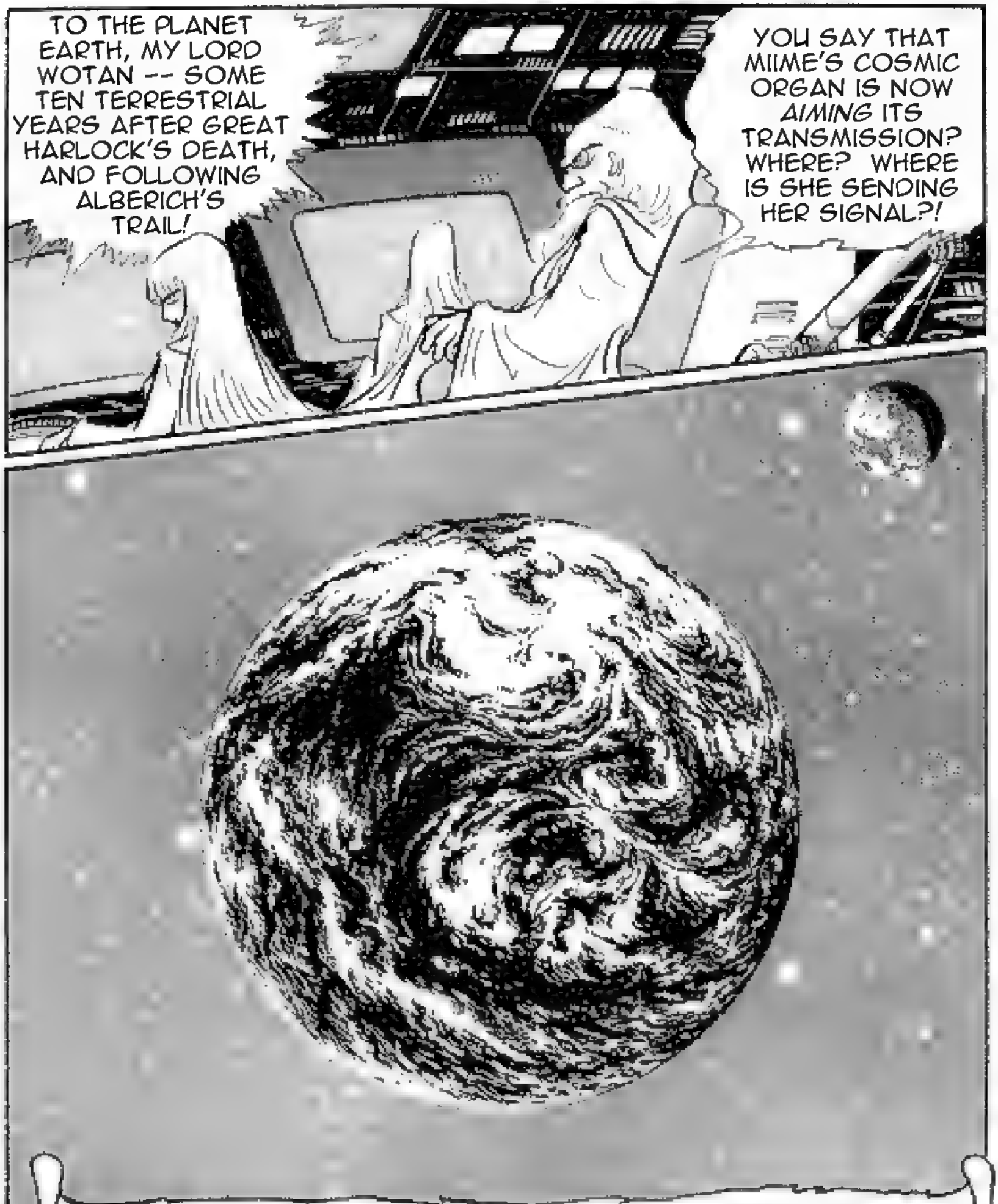
WELL THEN ... AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE ... WANNA HAVE SOME FUN?

LOOK UP, YOU FOOLS, AND BE AFRAID! BE VERY AFRAID!!

ENGINE MUFFLER, OFF! STEALTH SCREEN, OFF!

THE NEXT GENERATION OF SPACE PIRATES HAS ARRIVED!!!

IT'S TIME WE CAME INTO OUR OWN, HARLOCK! WALKED IN OUR FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS!


TO THE PLANET EARTH, MY LORD WOTAN -- SOME TEN TERRESTRIAL YEARS AFTER GREAT HARLOCK'S DEATH, AND FOLLOWING ALBERICH'S TRAIL!
YOU SAY THAT MIIME'S COSMIC ORGAN IS NOW *AIMING* ITS TRANSMISSION? WHERE? WHERE IS SHE SENDING HER SIGNAL?!

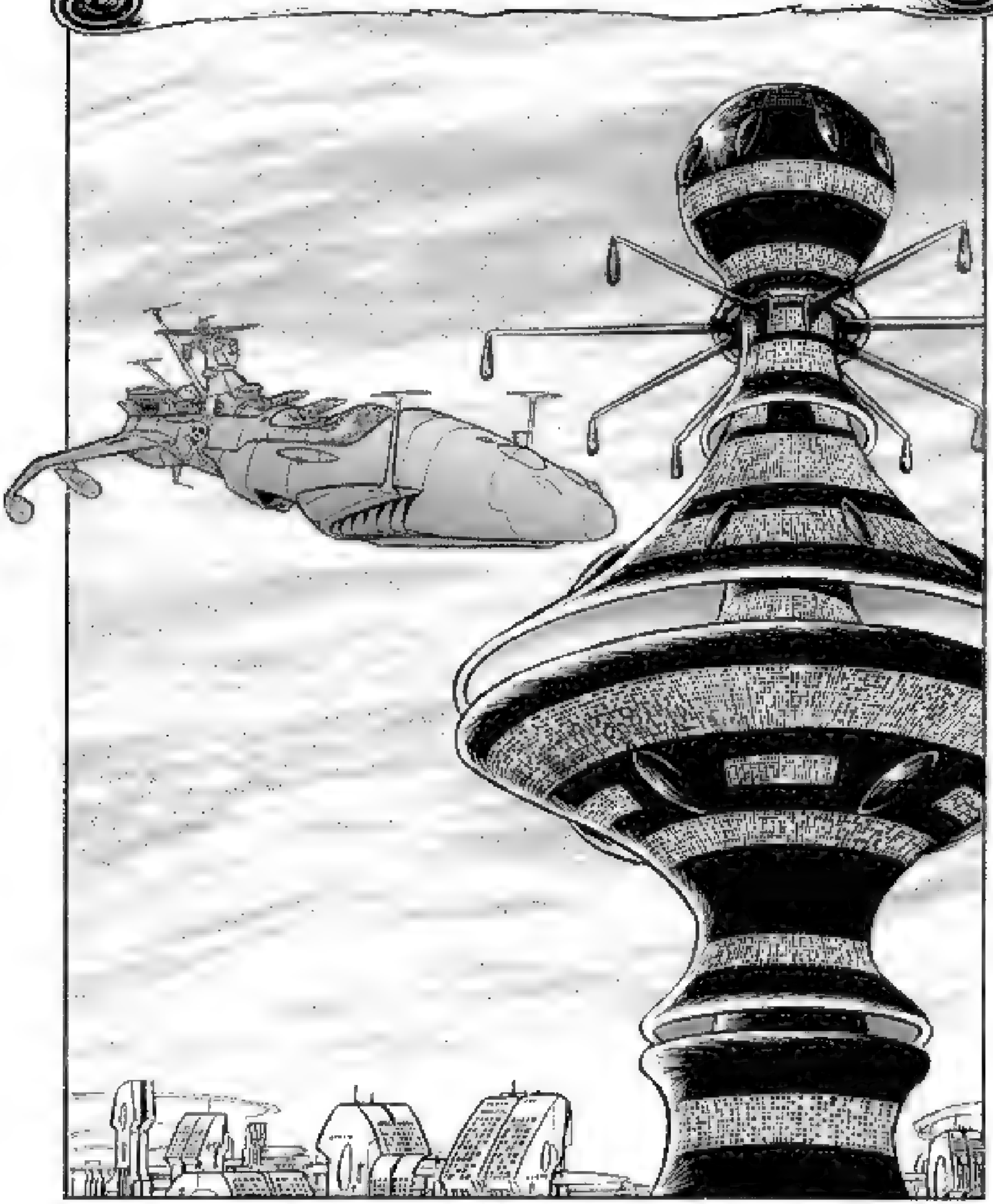
EVEN AS WOTAN FRETS AND FUMES, POWERLESS TO SWAY THE PATTERN THAT FATE IS CRAFTING AROUND HIM, THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS BEGINS TO TAKE FORM. THE WAVE GRAVITY AMPLIFIED MUSICIAL RADIATION FROM MIIME'S COSMIC ORGAN WRAPS ITSELF AROUND YOUNG HARLOCK AND HIS FRIEND TOCHIRO OYAMA LIKE A MOTHER SWADDLING HER CHILD. THEIR SHARED DESTINIES ARE THUS SECURE FROM ANY EFFORTS TO ALTER THEM ... AND EVEN ALBERICH'S FAILED ATTEMPT TO CHANGE HIS OWN FATE WILL PLAY INTO THIS EVER-WEAVING TAPESTRY OF TIME AND SPACE.

Götterdämmerung

Ring 64 - A Father's Legacy

"WHEN A TRUE MAN IS FACED WITH THE UNEXPECTED, HE WILL ACT RATHER THAN REACT. THOSE WHO ARE NOT TRUE MEN DO NOTHING BUT REACT."

PHANTOM F. HARLOCK I (1880?-1944?)
ARCADIA OF MY YOUTH



HOLY SHIT! THAT'S CAPTAIN HARLOCK'S SHIP!!!

IT JUST POPPED OUT OF THIN AIR!

C-CA-CA-C-CA CA-CAPTAIN HA-HA-HAR-HARLOCK!!!!

IT CAN'T BE! HE'S NOWHERE CLOSE TO EARTH!!

WELL, WELL, WELL! IF IT ISN'T OUR GOOD FRIEND THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE! IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED -- EXCEPT FOR THE NEW DENTURES!

I DECIDED IT WAS HIGH TIME I DROP BY AND PICK IT UP.

YOU MIGHT RECALL A LITTLE SOMETHING MY FATHER LEFT IN YOUR OLD OFFICE ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO OR SO?

DON'T EVEN THINK OF INTERFERING, OR I'LL BLOW THE OCTAGON AWAY!!!

SHALL I EXPOSE HOW YOU AND YOUR KIND HAVE EXPLOITED THE EARTH? FORCED ALL THOSE WHO OPPOSED YOU UNDERGROUND, TO LIVE LIKE DOGS IN RUIN AND FILTH?!

OH, AND BY THE WAY ... I KNOW YOU AREN'T A REAL HUMAN. SHALL I SAY WHAT YOU REALLY ARE?

LOOK AT IT AND TREMBLE, METANOID! THESE COLORS DEFEATED YOUR INVASION FLEET!!!

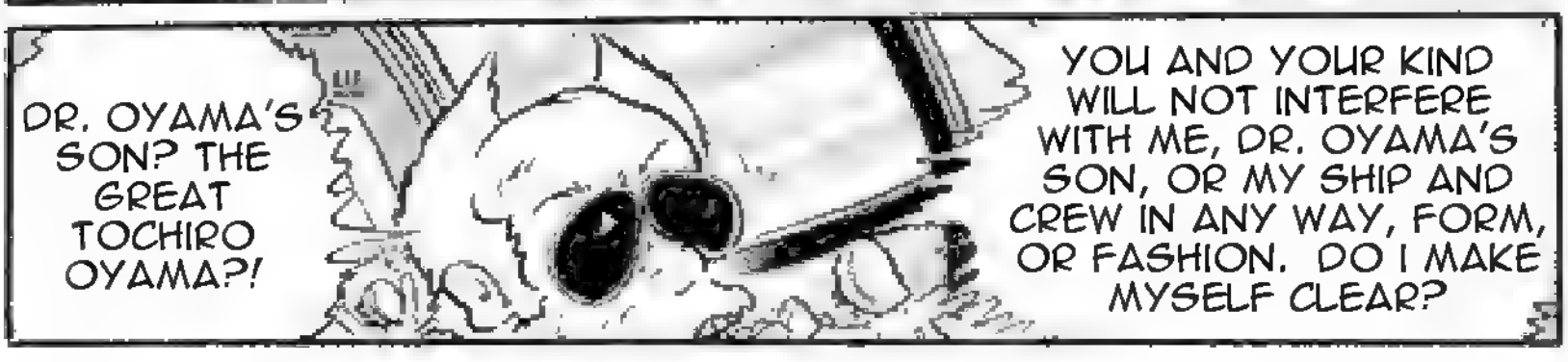
I LIVE IN FREEDOM, AND I FIGHT UNDER MY OWN FLAG -- THE SAME YOU SEE HOISTED ON MY SHIP!

THE SKULL AND CROSS-BONES!!!

IT'S TRUE!

WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME, HARLOCK?!

I CAME TO RECLAIM MY FATHER'S DAGGER. THAT IS ALL.
WANT? I WANT YOU DEAD -- BUT I AM NOT HERE TO FULFILL MY WANTS.


DR. OYAMA'S SON? THE GREAT TOCHIRO OYAMA?!
YOU AND YOUR KIND WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH ME, DR. OYAMA'S SON, OR MY SHIP AND CREW IN ANY WAY, FORM, OR FASHION. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?

NOW WHERE IS THE DESK IN WHICH MY FATHER STUCK HIS DAGGER?

I-IT-IT'S IN MY OLD OFFICE IN THE OLD DEFENSE B-BUILDING! RIGHT WHERE HE LEFT IT! OH GOD, PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!!

I WOULD ADVISE YOU AND YOUR FELLOW METANOIDS TO LEAVE EARTH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. OTHERWISE I'LL BE ANGRY ... AND YOU WON'T LIKE ME WHEN I'M ANGRY.

VERY WELL. WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY -- BUT DON'T EVEN THINK OF PULLING A FAST ONE ON US.

... COMING FROM THE OCTAGON!

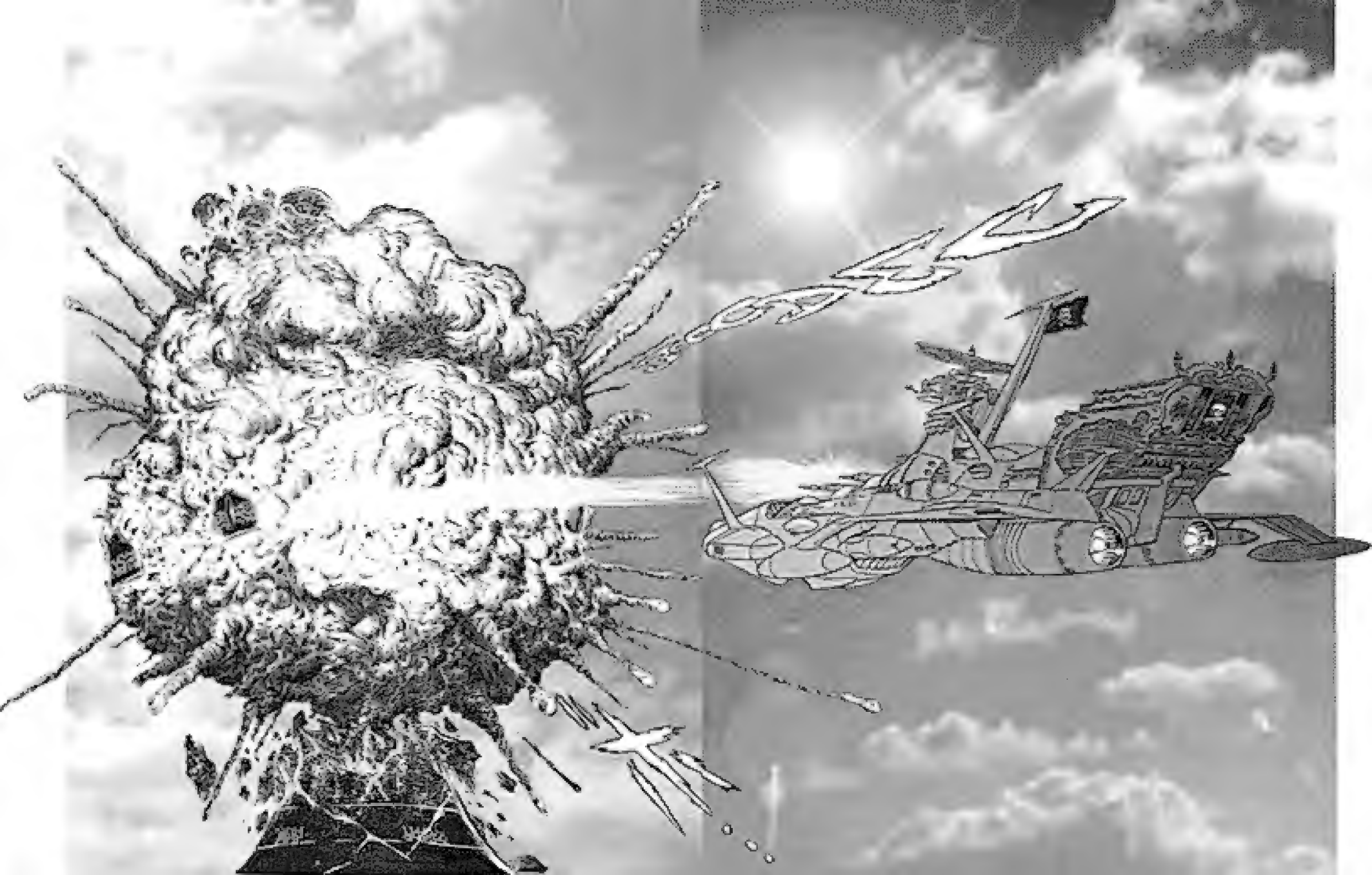
HARLOCK? THERE'S A MASSIVE ENERGY BUILDUP ...

STUPID FOOLS. I WARNED THEM. GIVE JUST ENOUGH TIME FOR THE RATS TO LEAVE.

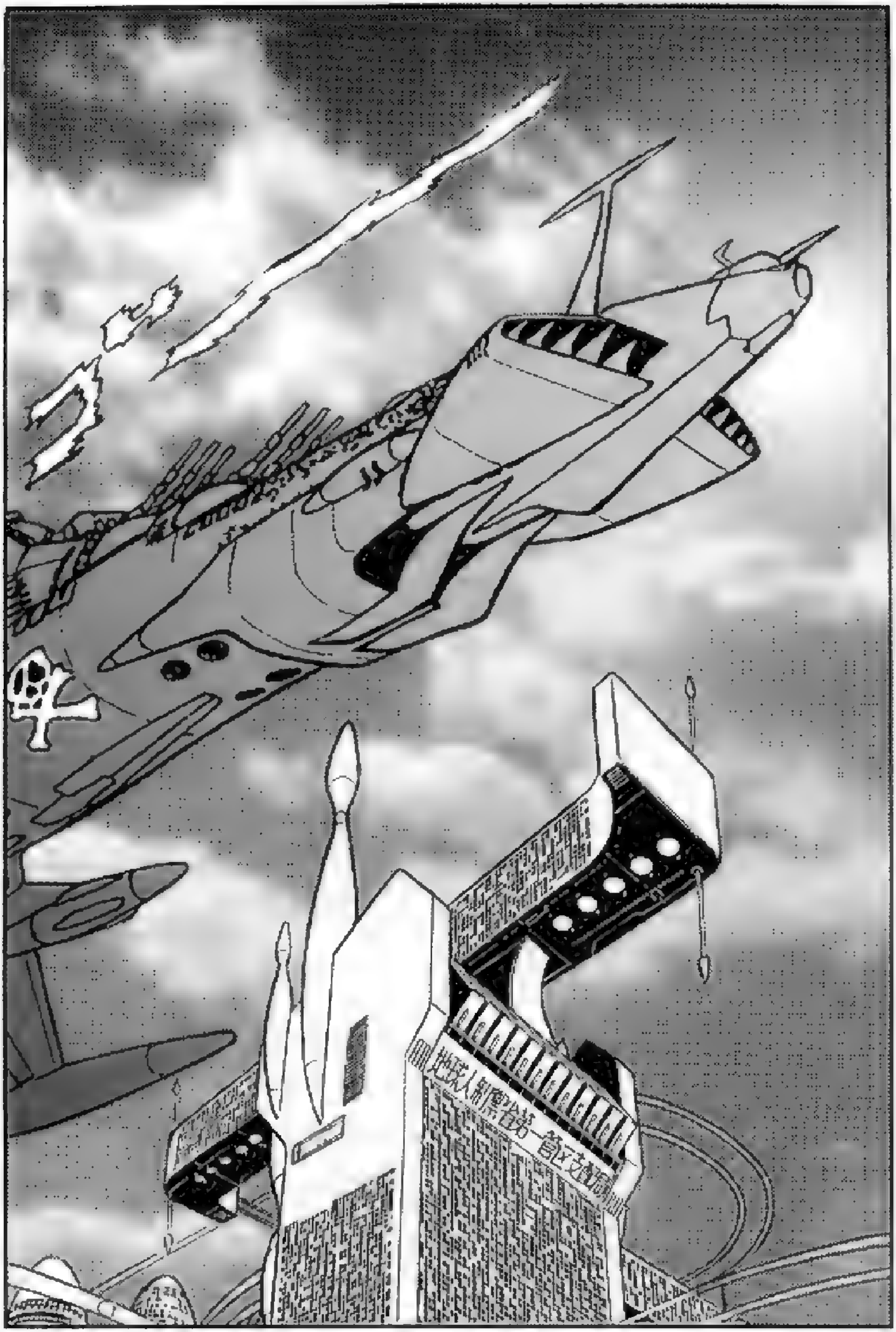
I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO TRY TO DESTROY US BY OVERLOADING THE BUILDING'S OWN POWER REACTORS.

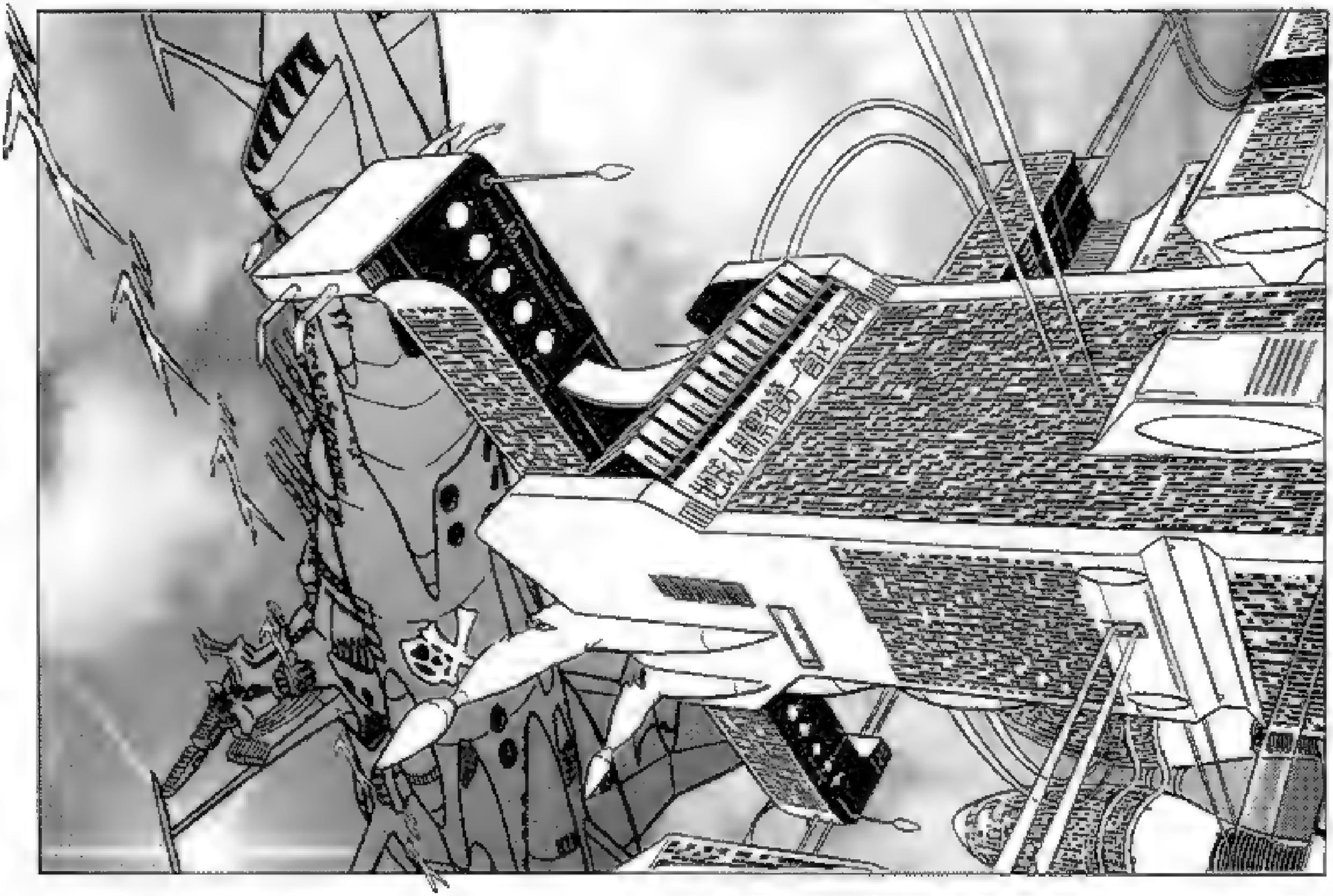
I ONLY WISH YOUR DAD AND MINE WERE HERE TO SEE THIS.

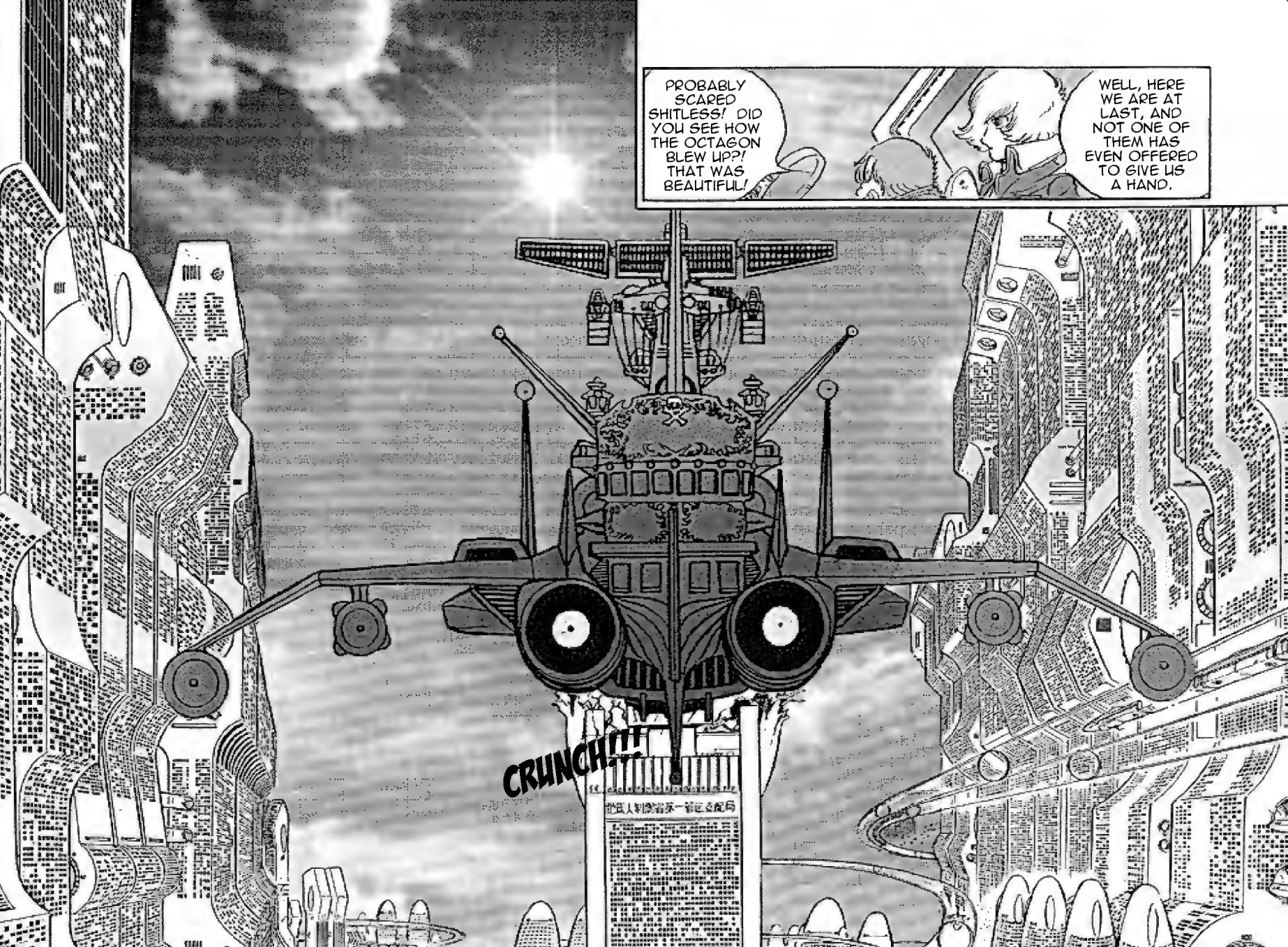
THERE THEY GO! THEY'RE RUNNING INTO EACH OTHER IN THEIR HURRY TO LEAVE! FIRE WHEN READY, TOCHIRO!!

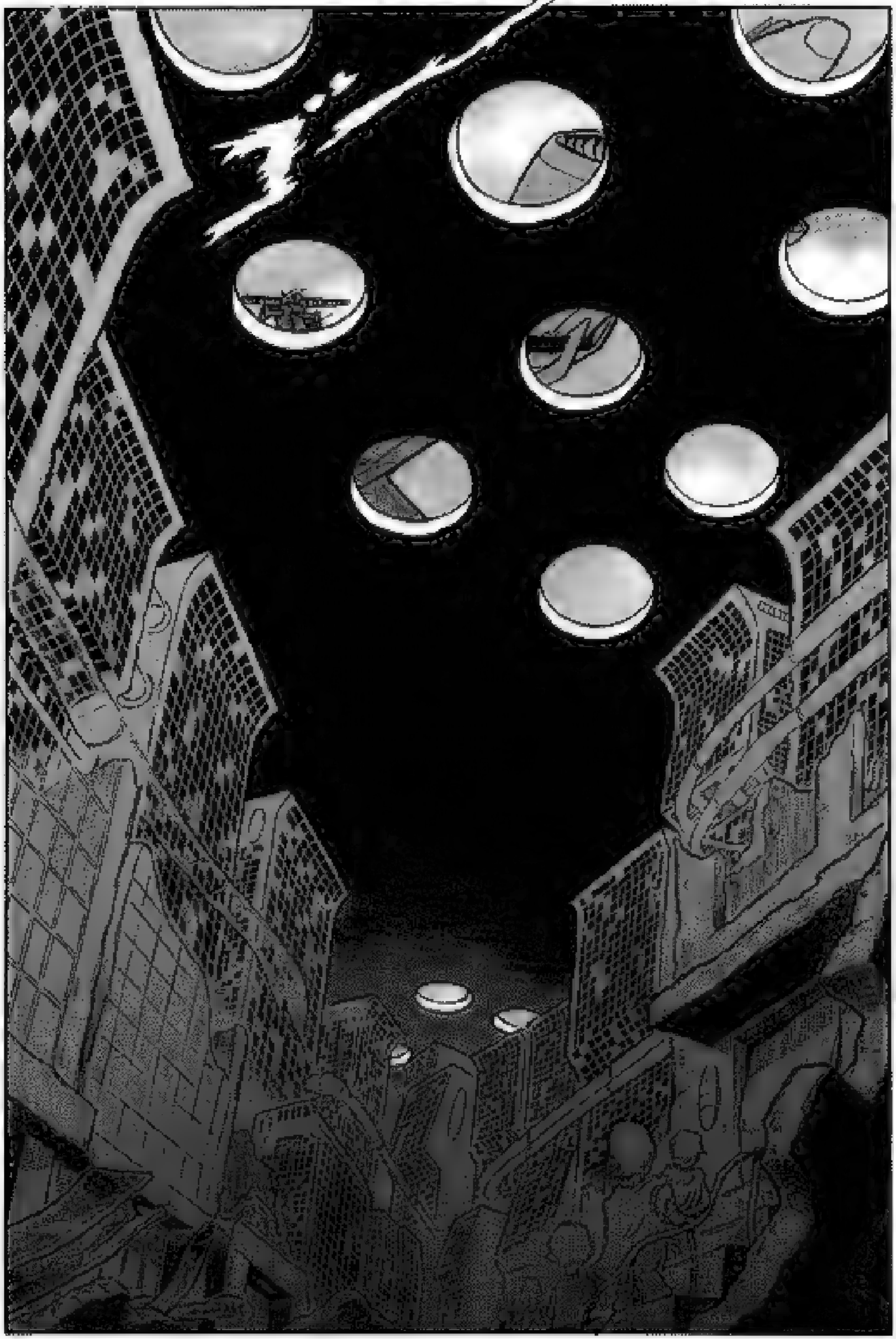


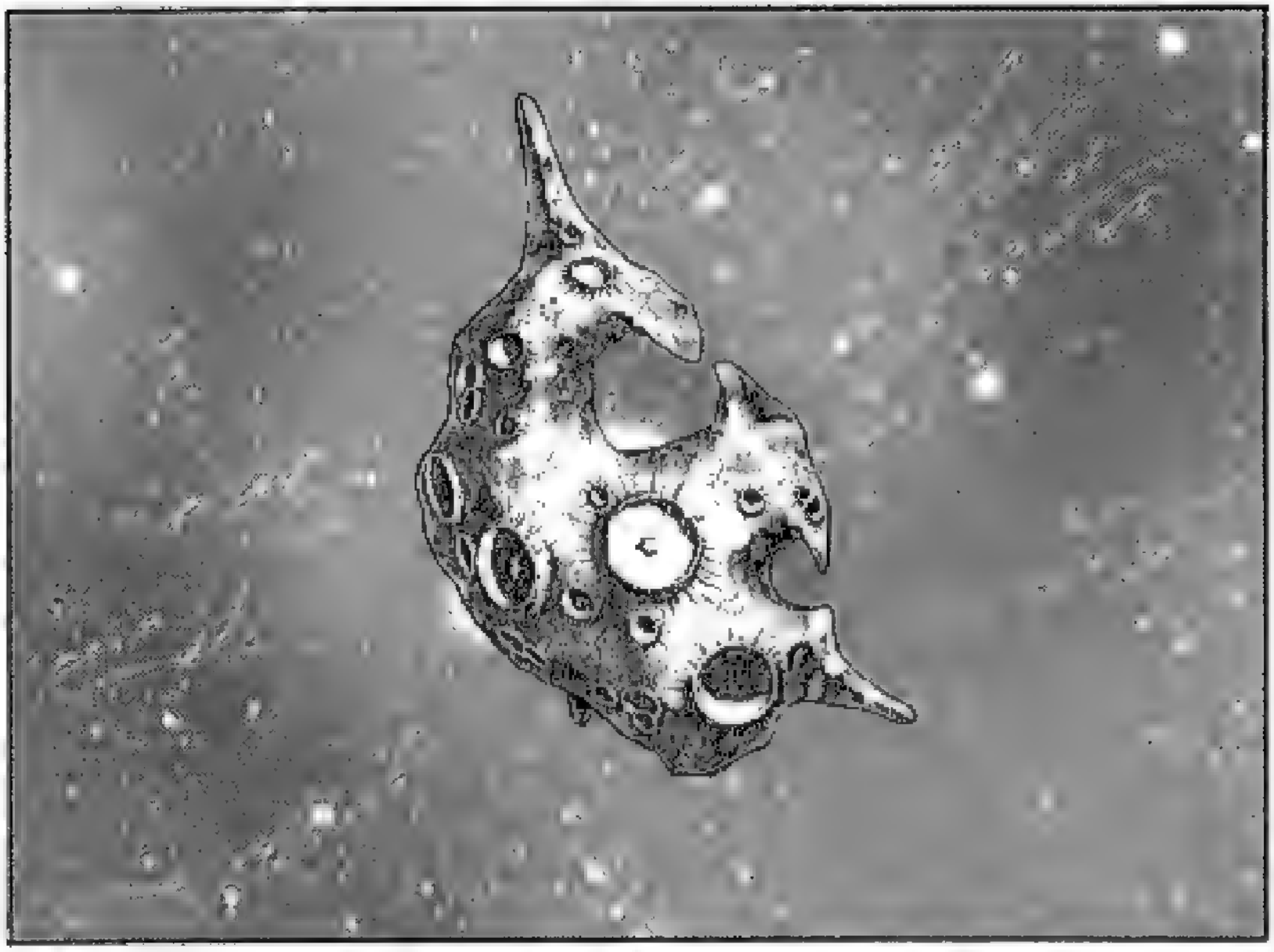
NO ONE EVER KNEW FOR CERTAIN HOW MANY METANOIDS FLED EARTH ON THAT DAY IN 2974, UNDER THREAT OF FORCE BY "CAPTAIN HARLOCK." WHAT IS KNOWN IS THAT THEY NEVER FORGOT THIS EVENT, NOR DID THEIR RULER AND GOD -- THE MYSTERIOUS DARK QUEEN. THE PEOPLE OF EARTH, TRUE TO FORM, MERELY SHRUGGED AND ADJUSTED THEIR COMPLACENT LIVES ACCORDINGLY. NEITHER CREDIT NOR AID DID THEY GIVE TO THEIR TWO YOUTHFUL LIBERATORS, WHO WERE LEFT ALONE TO DO AS THEY WOULD ....

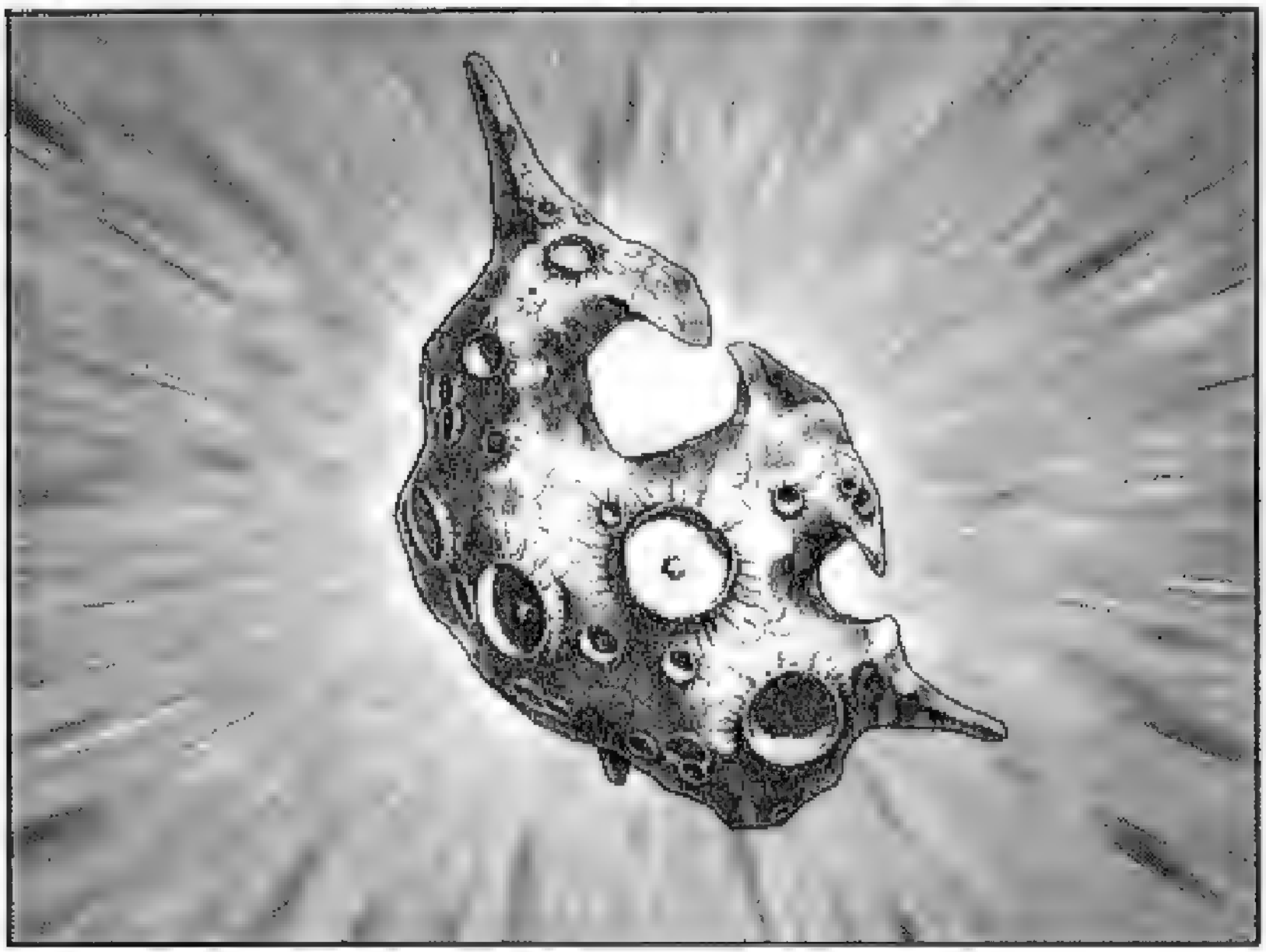


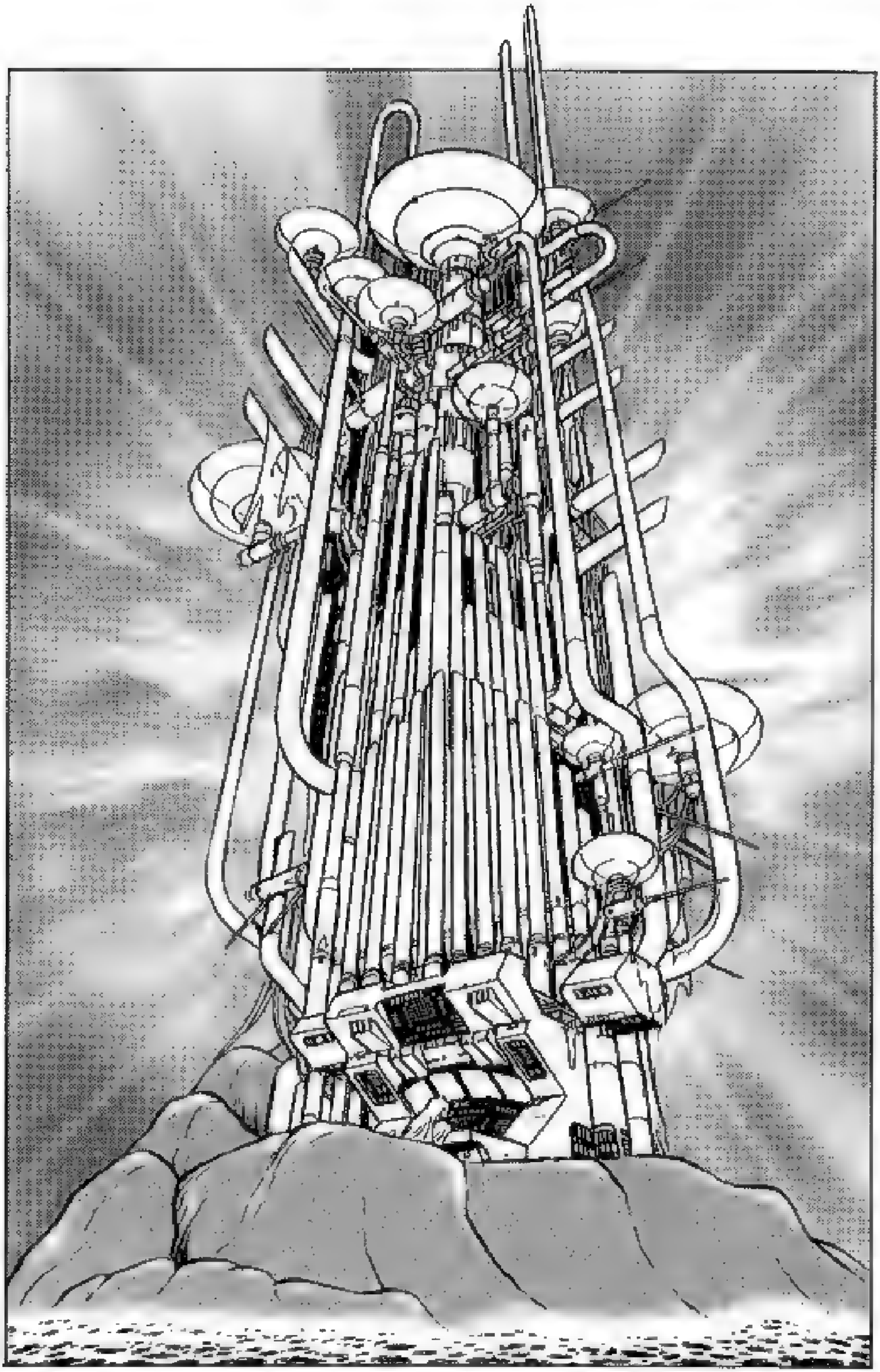


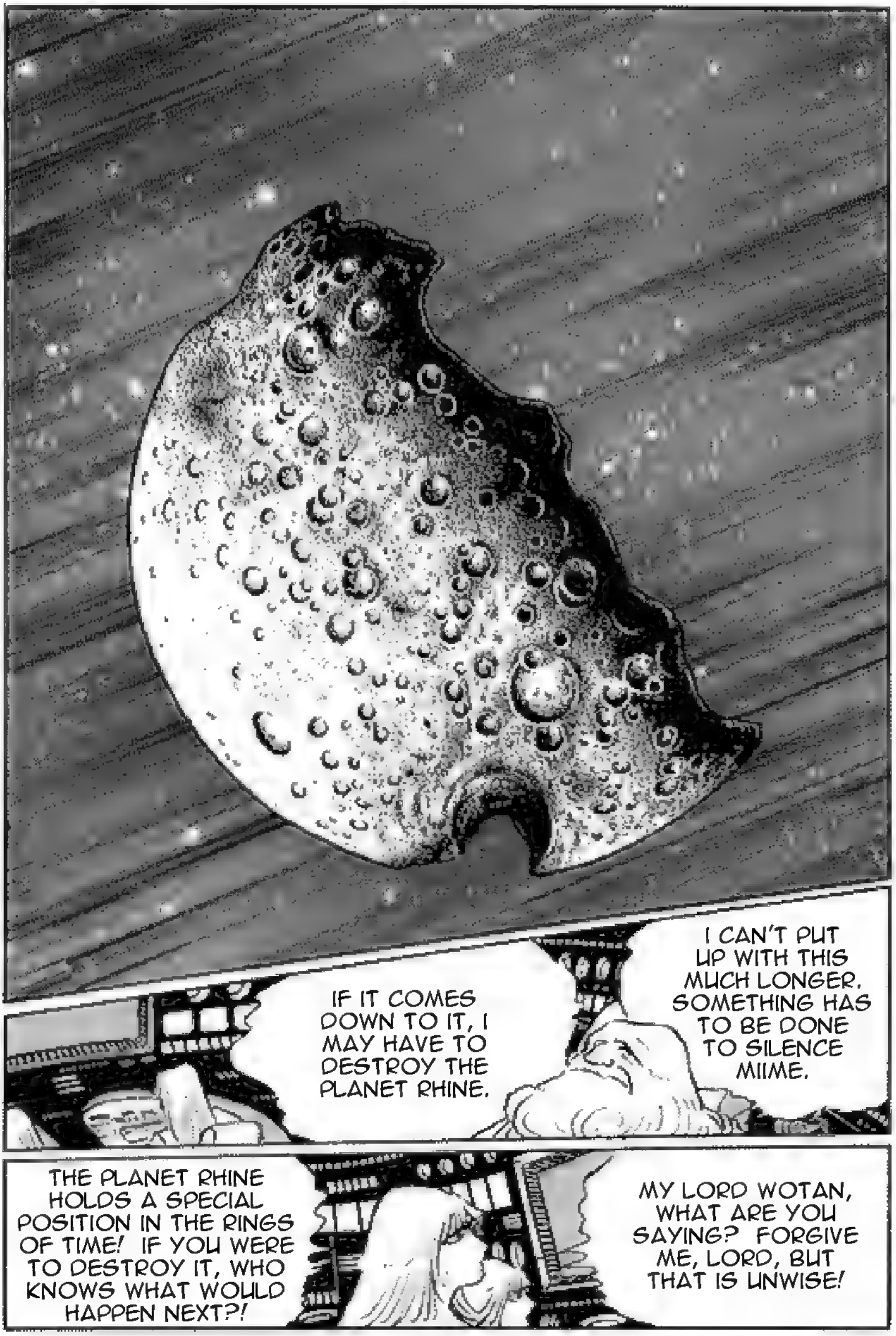

PROBABLY SCARED SHITLESS! DID YOU SEE HOW THE OCTAGON BLEW UP?! THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL!
WELL, HERE WE ARE AT LAST, AND NOT ONE OF THEM HAS EVEN OFFERED TO GIVE US A HAND.
CRUNCH!!!

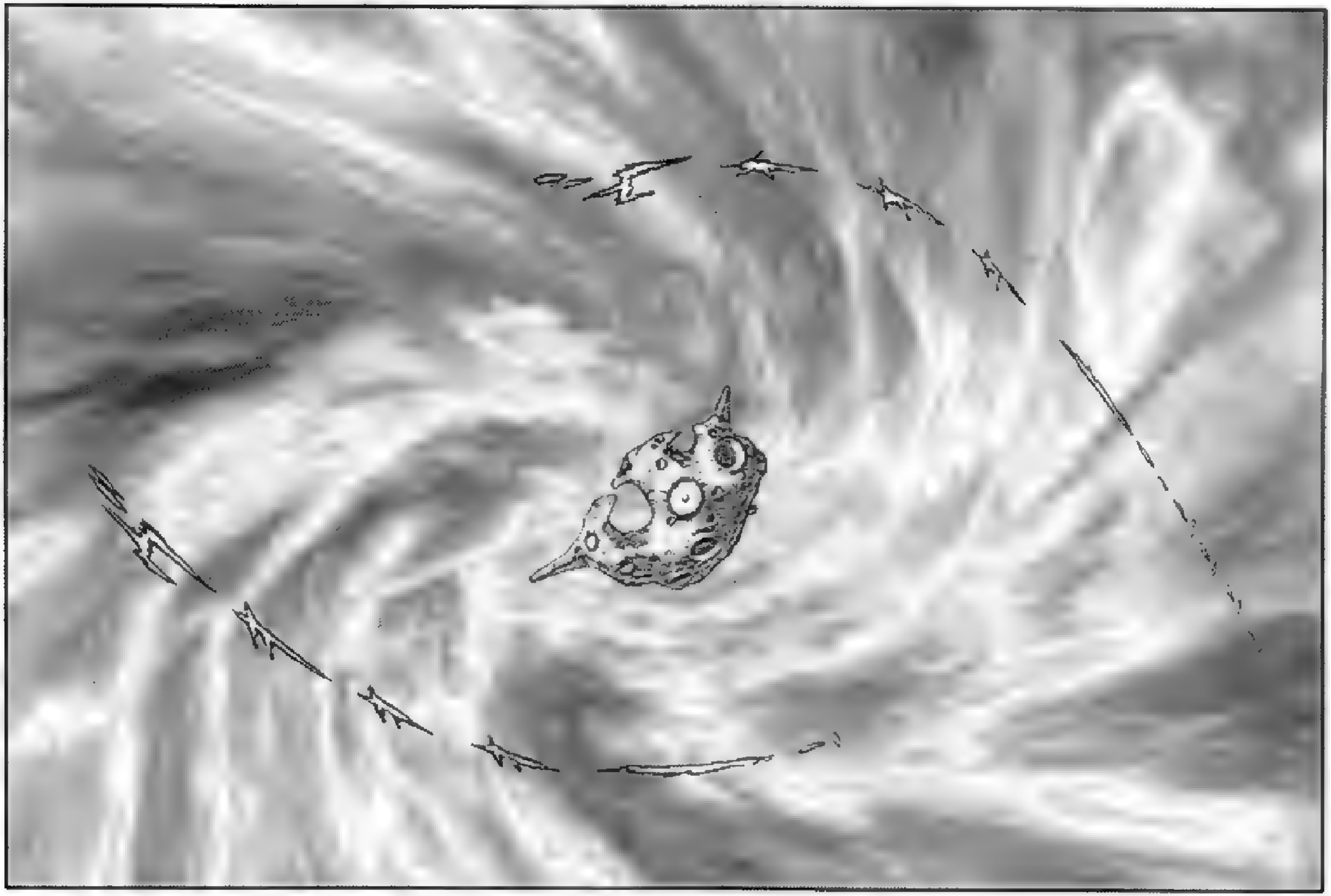


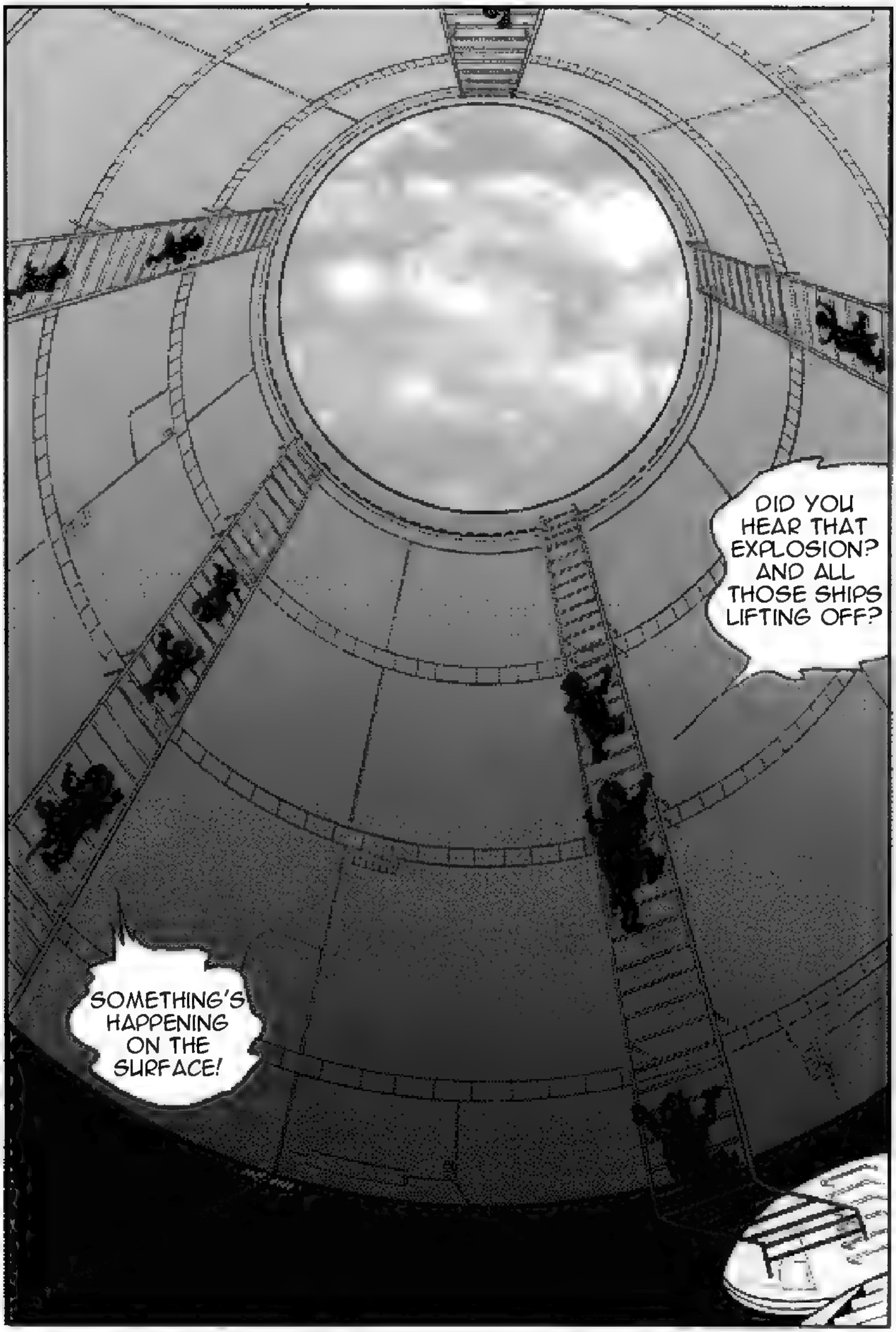


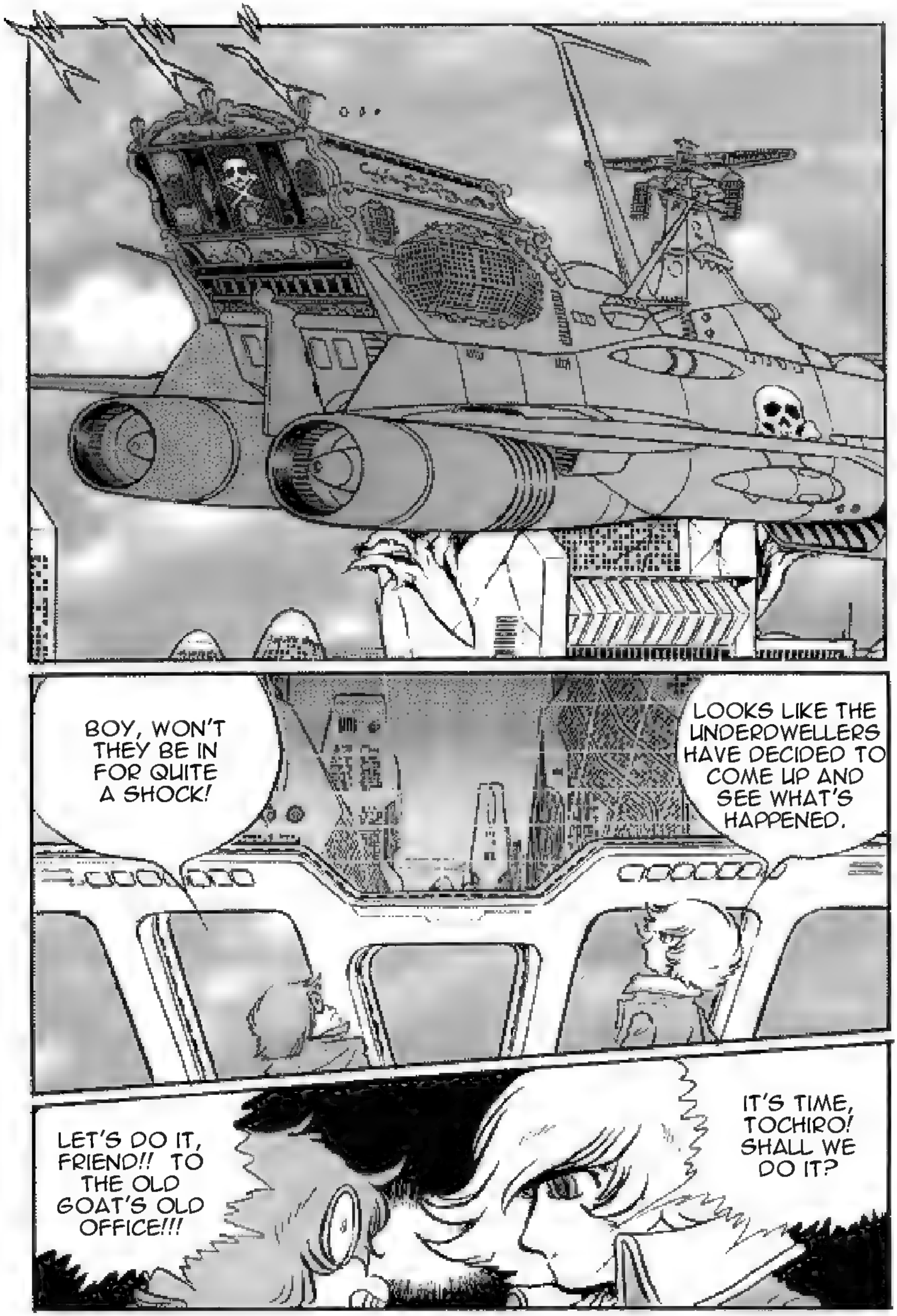


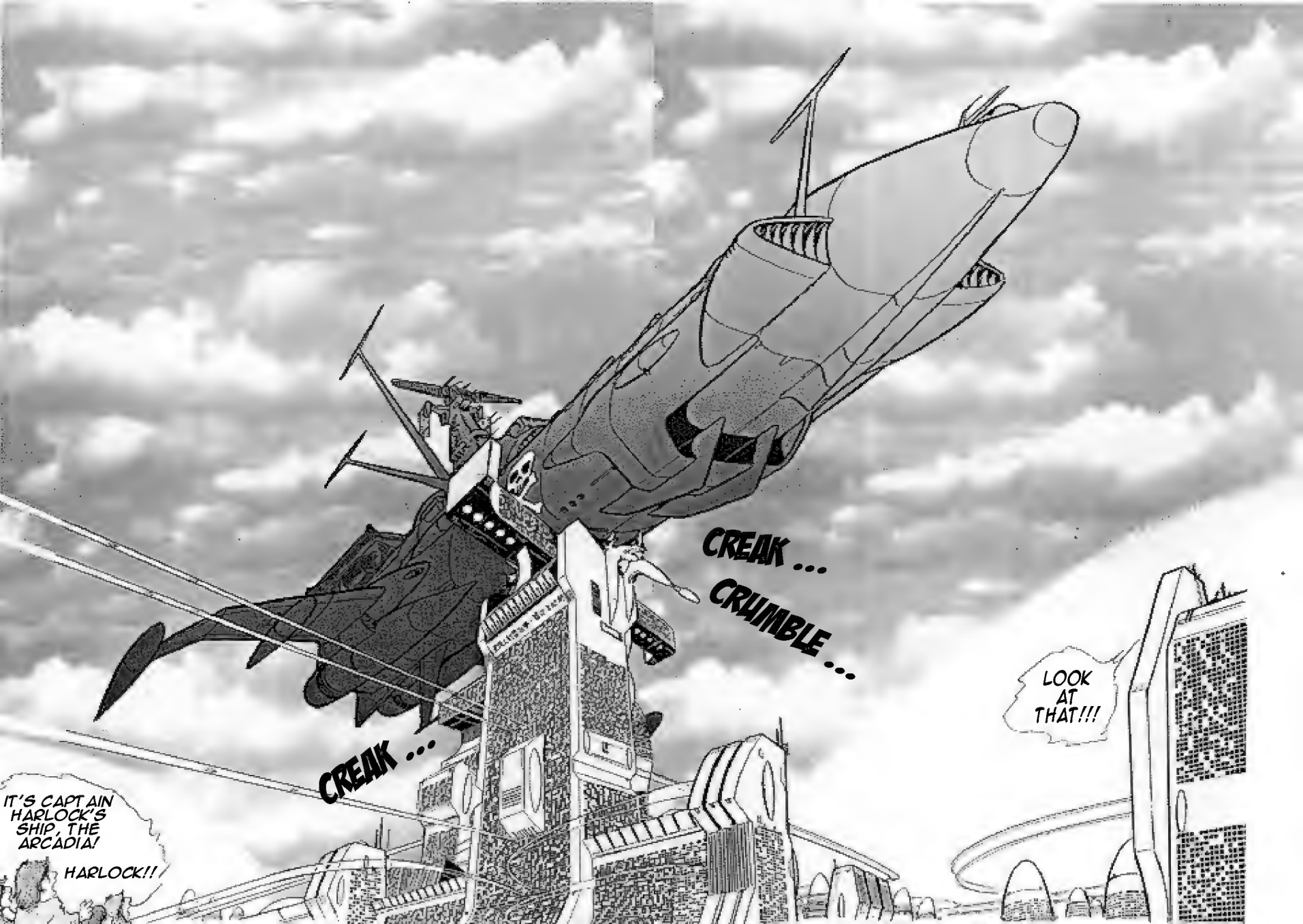


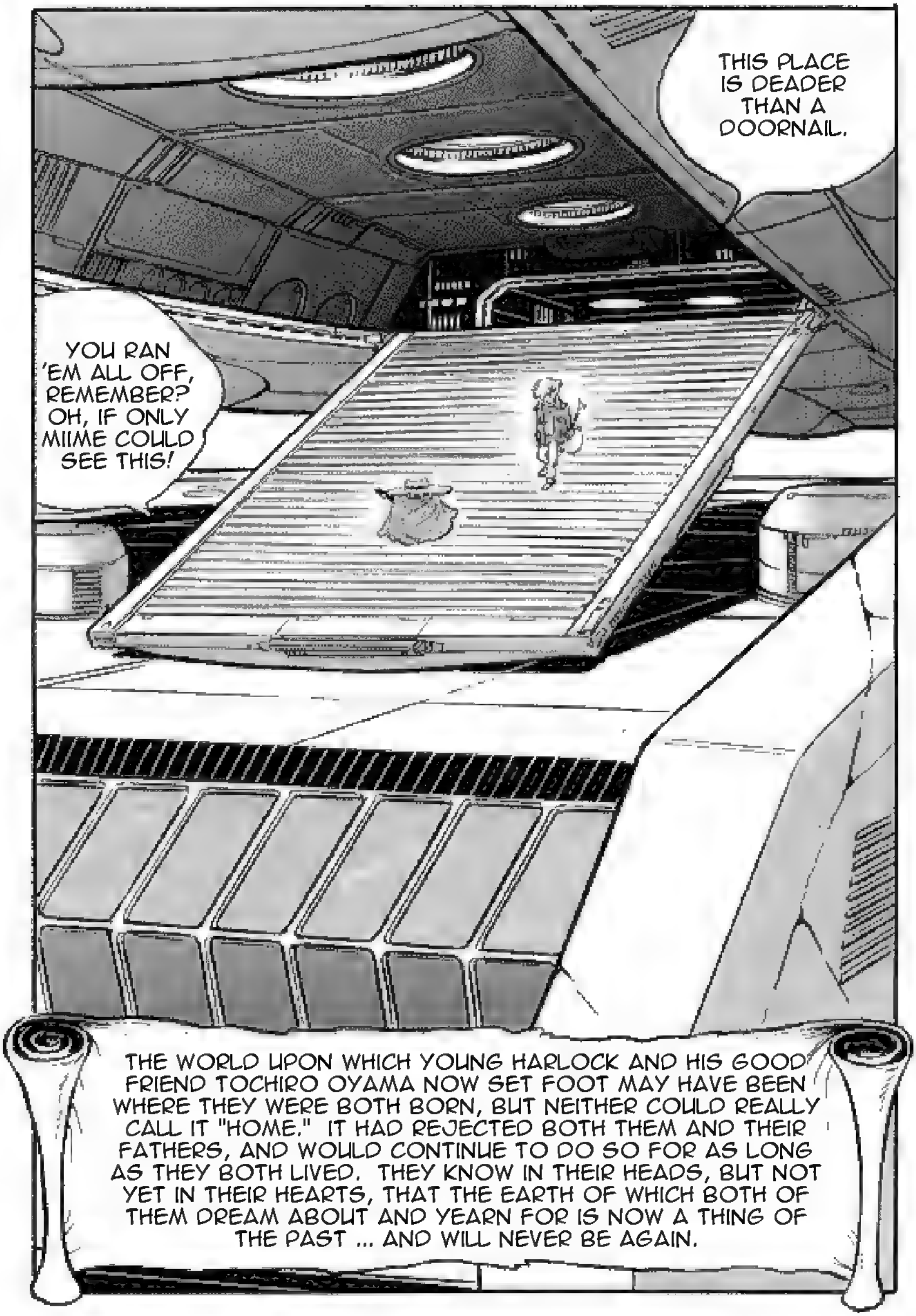

I CAN'T PUT UP WITH THIS MUCH LONGER. SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE TO SILENCE MIIME.
IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, I MAY HAVE TO DESTROY THE PLANET RHINE.
MY LORD WOTAN, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? FORGIVE ME, LORD, BUT THAT IS UNWISE!
THE PLANET RHINE HOLDS A SPECIAL POSITION IN THE RINGS OF TIME! IF YOU WERE TO DESTROY IT, WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT?!




DID YOU HEAR THAT EXPLOSION? AND ALL THOSE SHIPS LIFTING OFF?
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING ON THE SURFACE!


BOY, WON'T THEY BE IN FOR QUITE A SHOCK!
LOOKS LIKE THE UNDERDWELLERS HAVE DECIDED TO COME UP AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED.
LET'S DO IT, FRIEND!! TO THE OLD GOAT'S OLD OFFICE!!!
IT'S TIME, TOCHIRO! SHALL WE DO IT?


CREAK ...
CRUMBLE ...
CREAK ...
LOOK AT THAT!!!
IT'S CAPTAIN HARLOCK'S SHIP, THE ARCADIA!
HARLOCK!!


THIS PLACE IS DEADER THAN A DOORNAIL.
YOU RAN 'EM ALL OFF, REMEMBER? OH, IF ONLY MIIME COULD SEE THIS!
THE WORLD UPON WHICH YOUNG HARLOCK AND HIS GOOD FRIEND TOCHIRO OYAMA NOW SET FOOT MAY HAVE BEEN WHERE THEY WERE BOTH BORN, BUT NEITHER COULD REALLY CALL IT "HOME." IT HAD REJECTED BOTH THEM AND THEIR FATHERS, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO FOR AS LONG AS THEY BOTH LIVED. THEY KNOW IN THEIR HEADS, BUT NOT YET IN THEIR HEARTS, THAT THE EARTH OF WHICH BOTH OF THEM DREAM ABOUT AND YEARN FOR IS NOW A THING OF THE PAST ... AND WILL NEVER BE AGAIN.

OUCH.
PERHAPS PARKING THE SHIP ON TOP OF THE BUILDING WAS A BAD IDEA.

I'M SORRY, MY LORD WOTAN. WE KNOW THAT ALBERICH LANDED ON EARTH, BUT THAT IS ALL.
SNIVELING COWARDS! SPEAKING OF WHICH, ANY NEWS OF THAT CONNIVING DWARF?
YOU SAY THAT BOLKAZANDA AND HIS GOONS HAVE FLED EARTH?! I WANT THEM ALL EXECUTED! THE LOT OF THEM!
SMALL LOSS TO MANKIND! AFTER ALL, THE ONLY ONES INSIDE WERE THE MASTERS OR THEIR DOGS!
WANNA BET THOSE DOGS FLED AS FAST AS THEIR MASTERS?

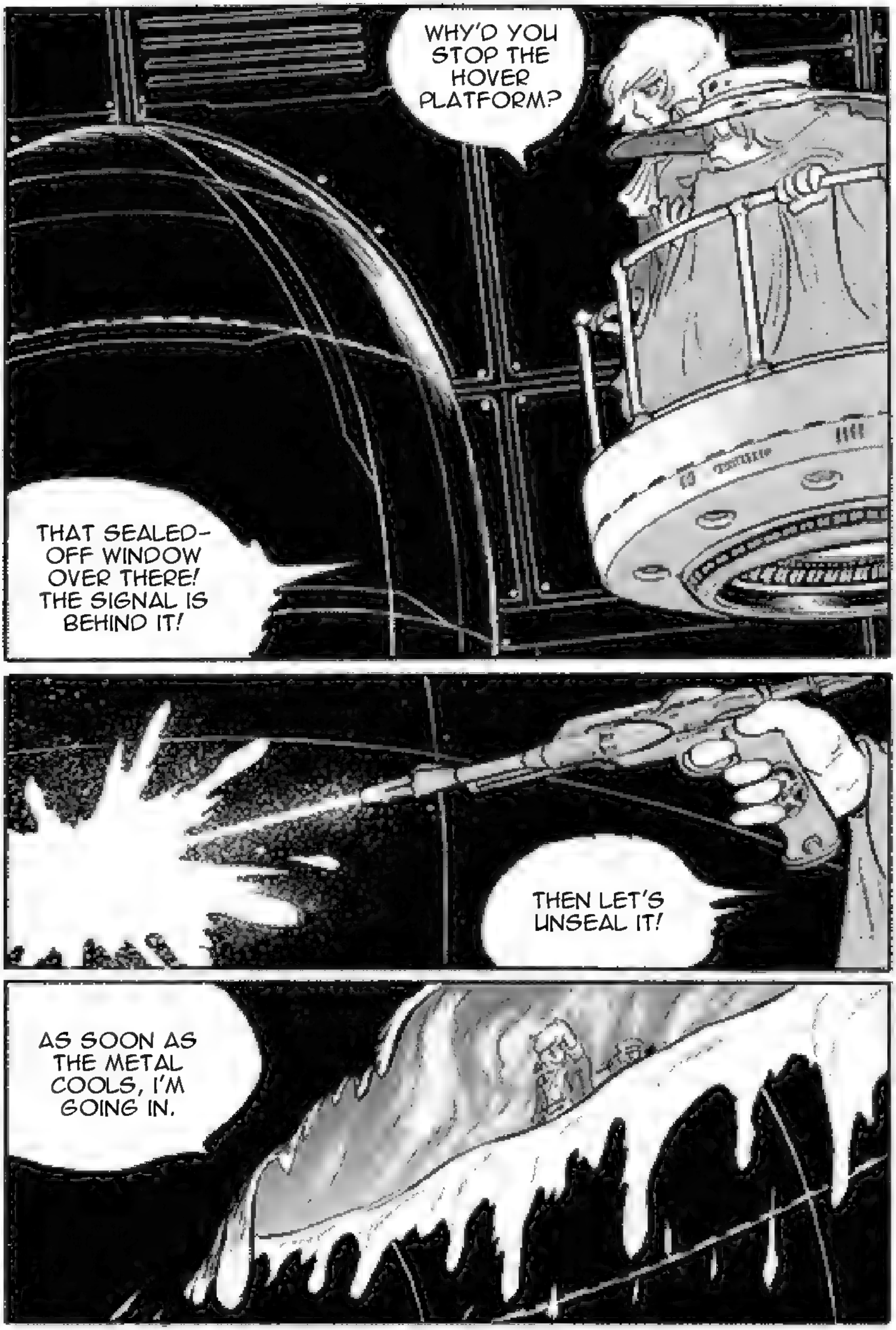
THIS WAS ALL JUST A FACADE OVER AN OLDER BUILDING! LOOKS LIKE IT'S IN GOOD SHAPE, TOO.

COMMON CONSTRUCTION METHOD -- A-HA! GOT THE DAGGER'S SIGNAL!

THEN LET'S GO!

OUR FATHERS ARE CALLING TO US FROM DOWN THERE!

IT'S ALMOST DIRECTLY BELOW US, HARLOCK!


WHY'D YOU STOP THE HOVER PLATFORM?
THAT SEALED-OFF WINDOW OVER THERE! THE SIGNAL IS BEHIND IT!
THEN LET'S UNSEAL IT!
AS SOON AS THE METAL COOLS, I'M GOING IN.

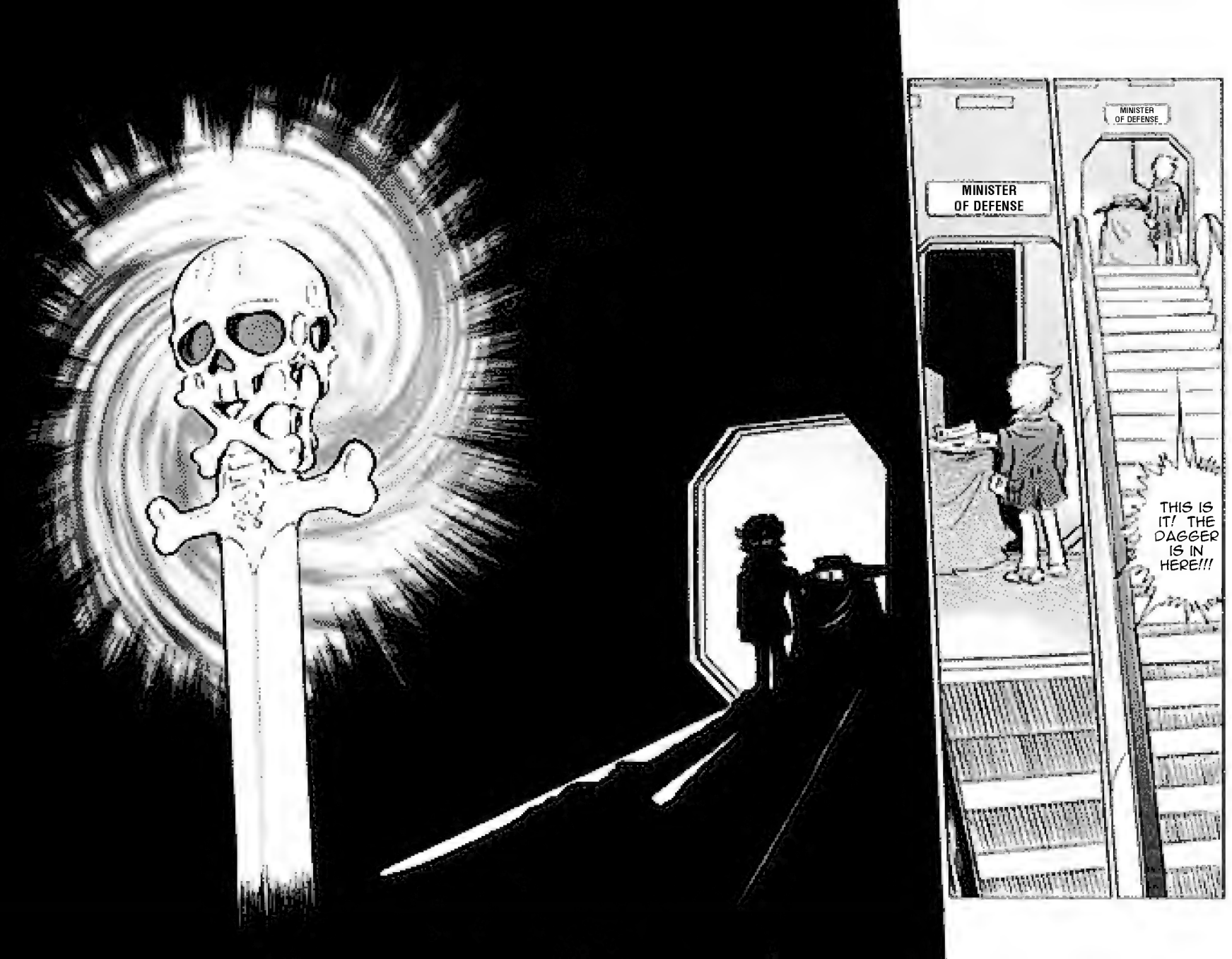
NOW IT'S JUST QUIET ... AND DEAD.

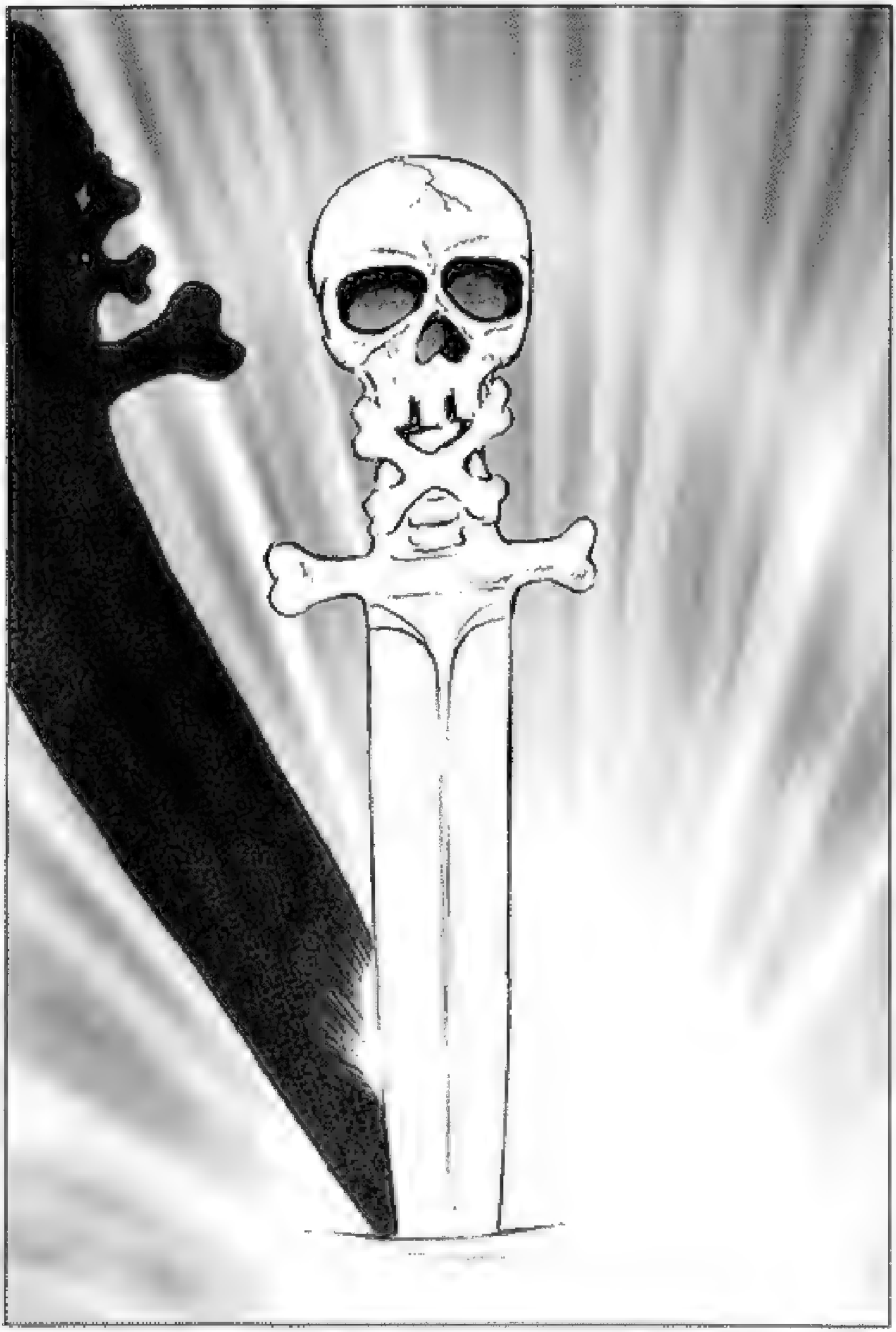
AND METANOIDS. DON'T FORGET THEM.

IT'S JUST A SHELL NOW ... BUT TEN YEARS AGO, IT WAS FULL OF PEOPLE.

THE SIGNAL'S GETTING STRONGER, HARLOCK, THE FARTHER WE WALK.

EVERYTHING LOOKS NORMAL ENOUGH -- JUST REALLY DUSTY.

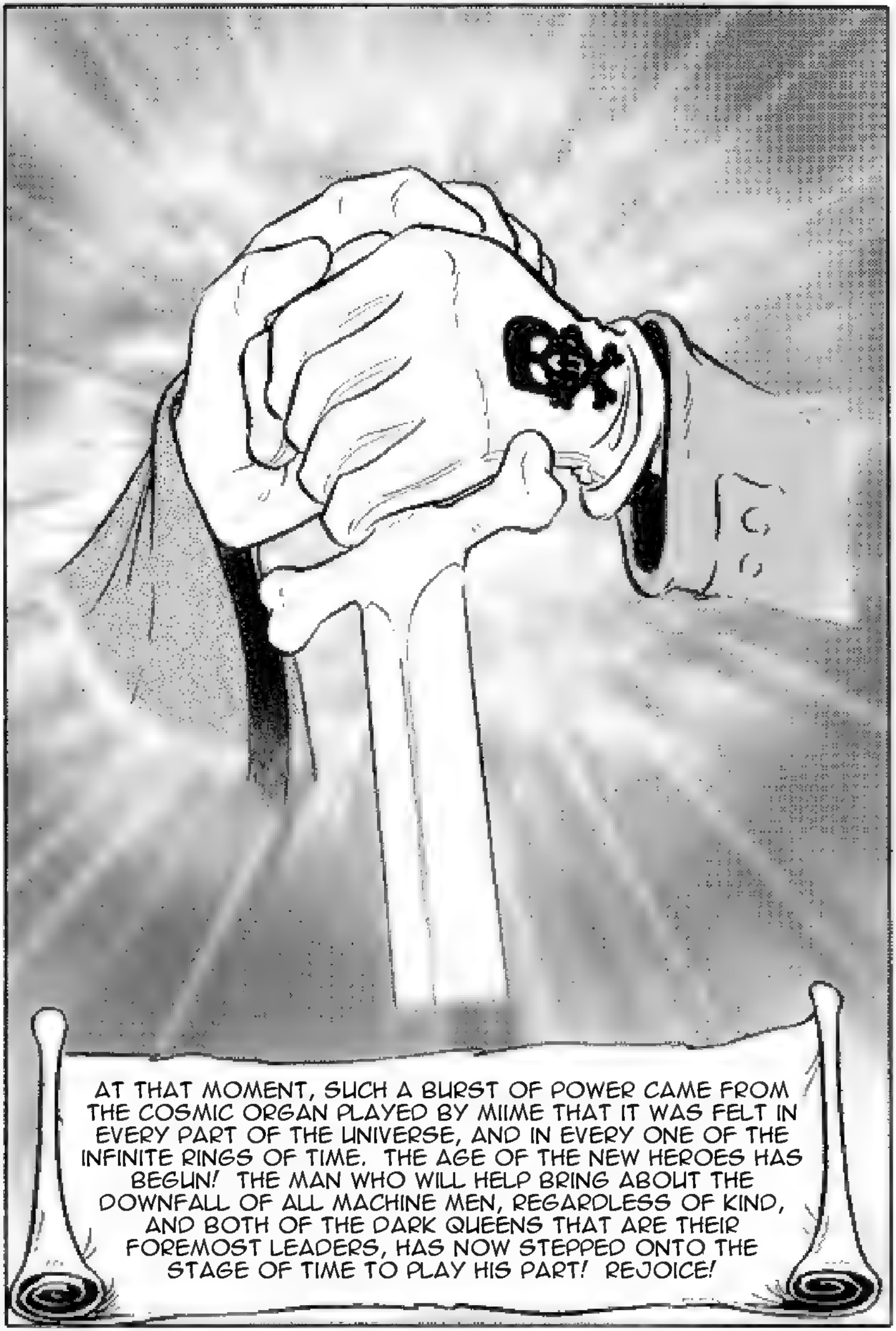

MINISTER OF DEFENSE
MINISTER OF DEFENSE
THIS IS IT! THE DAGGER IS IN HERE!!!



I CAN FEEL IT! YOUNG HARLOCK AND LITTLE TOCHIRO HAVE CLAIMED THE LEGACY LEFT FOR THEM BY THEIR FATHERS!

THE DAGGER IS NOW IN THEIR HANDS!! MAY THE UNIVERSE TREMBLE!!!

THEIR DESTINIES ARE ASSURED, AND THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS IS CERTAIN! OH, I AM SO HAPPY!! I SHALL REJOICE IN SONG!!!


AT THAT MOMENT, SUCH A BURST OF POWER CAME FROM THE COSMIC ORGAN PLAYED BY MIIME THAT IT WAS FELT IN EVERY PART OF THE UNIVERSE, AND IN EVERY ONE OF THE INFINITE RINGS OF TIME. THE AGE OF THE NEW HEROES HAS BEGUN! THE MAN WHO WILL HELP BRING ABOUT THE DOWNFALL OF ALL MACHINE MEN, REGARDLESS OF KIND, AND BOTH OF THE DARK QUEENS THAT ARE THEIR FOREMOST LEADERS, HAS NOW STEPPED ONTO THE STAGE OF TIME TO PLAY HIS PART! REJOICE!

Götterdämmerung

Ring 65 ; The Dream Unfolds

IT IS SAID THAT VALHALLA, THE HOME OF THE GODS, WAS ONCE A WHOLE WORLD. IT WAS TORN ASUNDER IN THE ANCIENT WAR BY THE BLADE OF THE SWORD OF HEAVEN ... BUT THE STROKE WENT ASKEW, AND IT WAS THUS NOT COMPLETELY DESTROYED ....

IT'S A GRAVITY WAVE -- OF GREAT POWER!!

OOOOFFF!!! WHAT IN THE HEAVENS IS THIS?!?!

MY LORD, IT'S RIPPLING THROUGHOUT THE RINGS OF TIME!

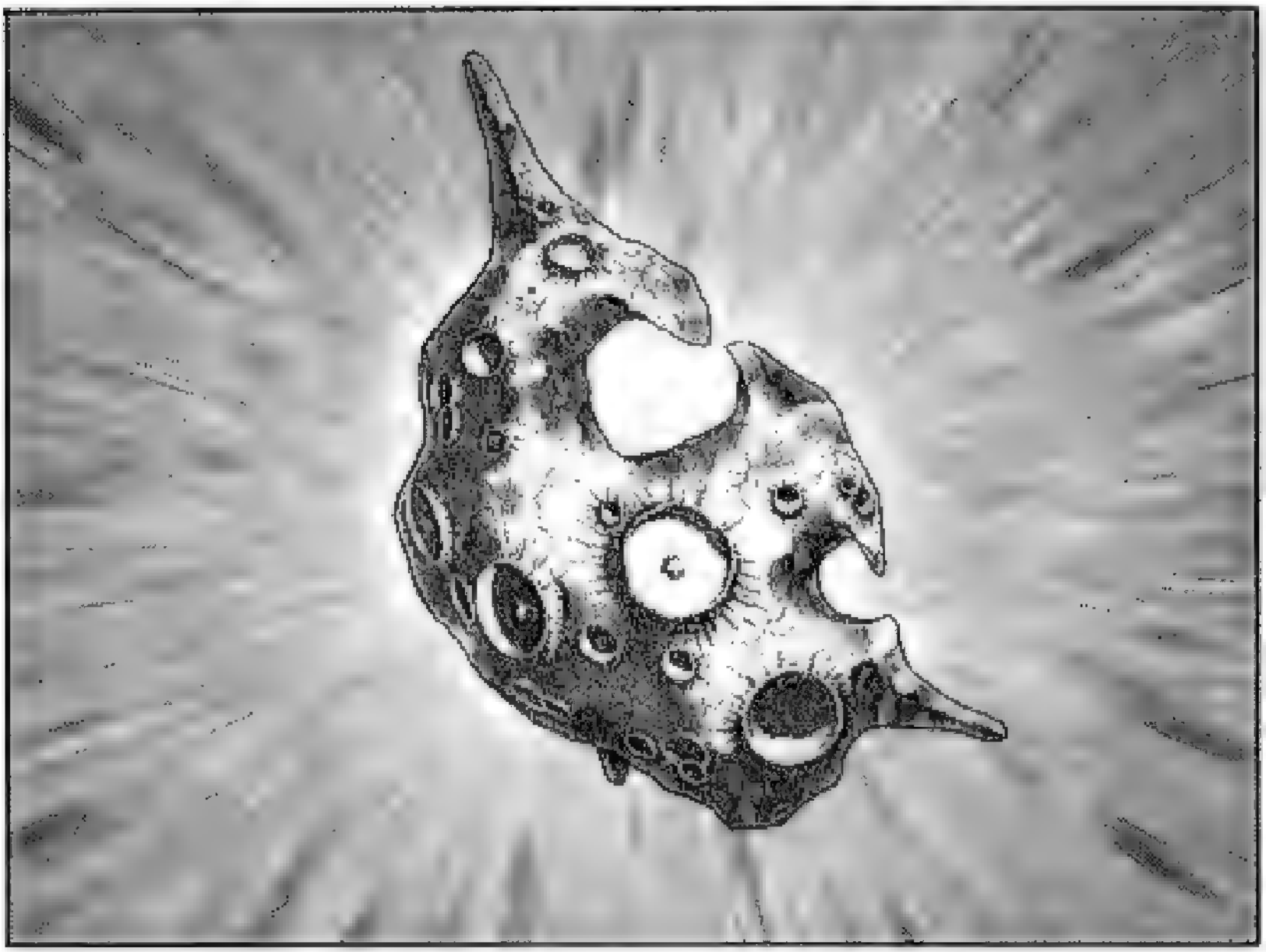
IT'S MIIME AGAIN. WHAT IS SHE DOING WITH THE ORGAN ON RHINE?!

ALL THE RINGS?!

YES, MY LORD WOTAN!

AND IS SHE STILL FOCUSED ON THE EARTH?!

I'LL TRY ....
PLEASE, LORD WOTAN, PROTECT US! SAVE US!
THIS IS BEYOND ANYTHING WE'VE SEEN BEFORE!
THOSE TWO BOYS ....
AT LEAST I KNOW WHAT IS AT THE FOCUS.



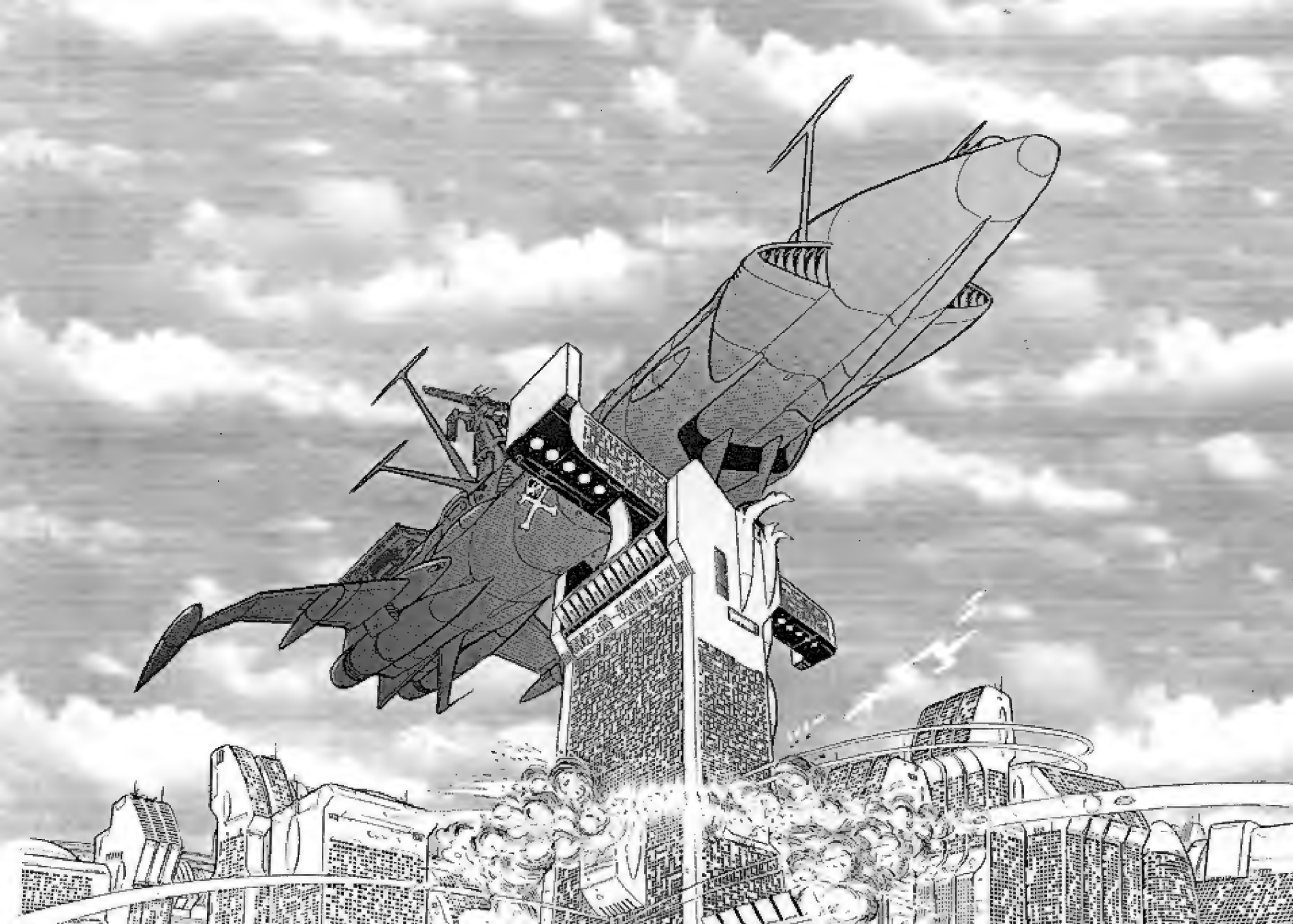
YEAH! IT'S A GOOD THING THIS PLACE IS ABANDONED! SOMEBODY WOULD'VE GOT HURT!

CAN YOU FEEL THE POWER? I NEVER KNEW IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS!

IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT'S SPEAKING TO MY HEART!

WHAT WAS OUR FATHERS' IS NOW OURS AGAIN!

DAD WARNED THEM OF THE POWER IT HELD!!!



DAD ONCE TOLD ME THAT HIS DAGGER WAS EMBEDDED WITH THE DNA OF OUR ANCESTORS.

IF WE HOOK THIS UP TO THE SHIP'S COMPUTER, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE GENETIC MEMORIES OF ALL OF OUR ANCESTORS!

YOU SAID IT, HARLOCK!! IT'S TIME TO HOIST OUR BANNER!!!
NOW WE CAN TRULY START OUR FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, TOCHIRO!
THAT FLAG! IT'S CAPTAIN HARLOCK!
IT'S A PIRATE SHIP!
THE OLD DEFENSE BUILDING COLLAPSED!

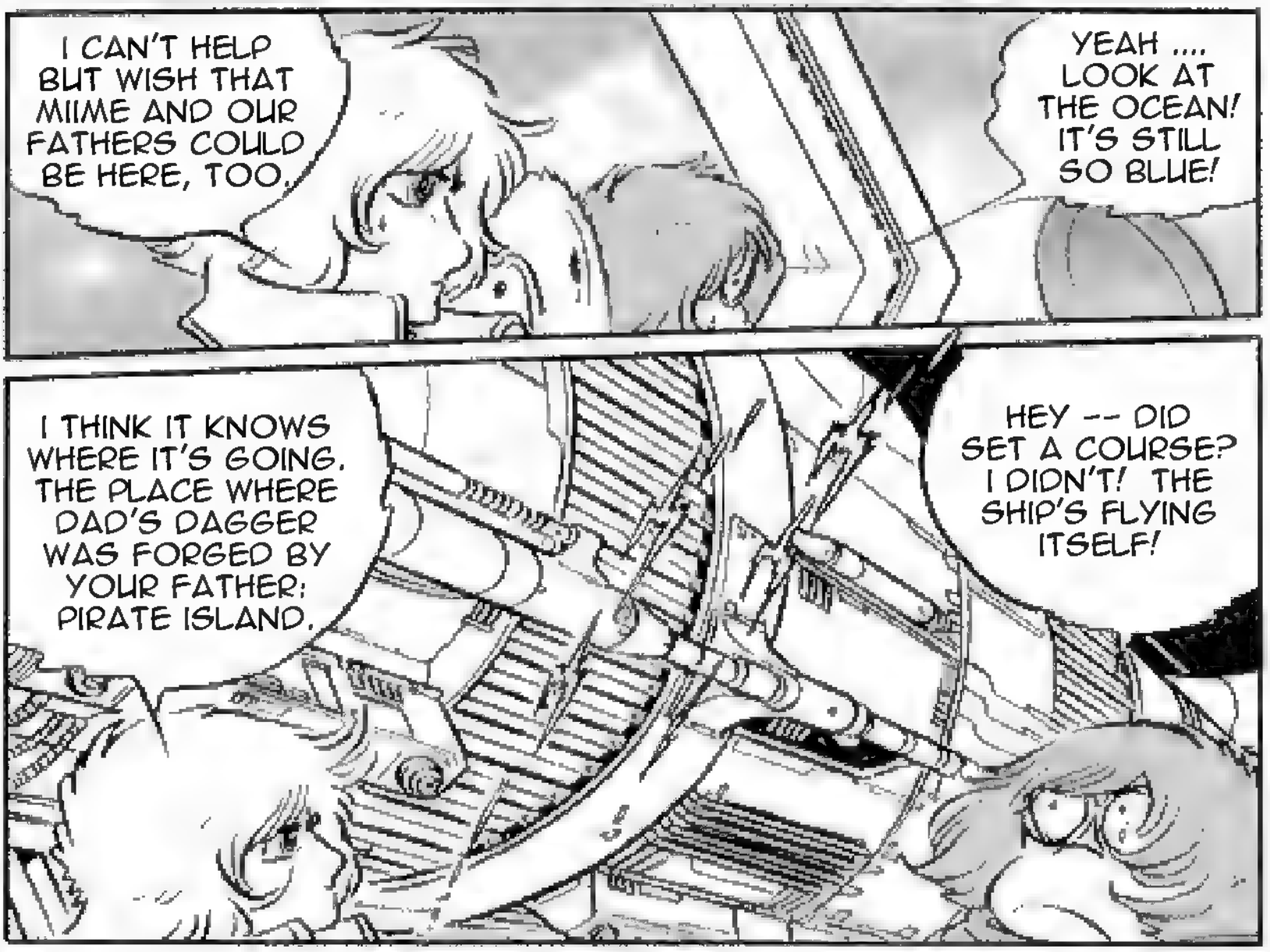
IT IS SAID THAT WHEN CAPTAIN HARLOCK LEARNED THAT SOMEBODY CLAIMING TO BE HIM HAD DESTROYED THE OCTAGON AND THE OLD DEFENSE BUILDNG ON EARTH, THEN ESCAPED TO THE STARS, HE MERELY SMILED AND SAID, "I SEE." HIS BEHAVIOR PUZZLED ALL WHO KNEW HIM, SINCE HE HAD ALWAYS ACTED AGAINST IMPOSTERS CLAIMING TO BE HIM. IT WAS NOT UNTIL HE EXPLAINED THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER THAT ALL WAS MADE CLEAR. THAT EVENT MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE AGE OF FREEDOM IN THIS NEW BENT RING OF TIME.

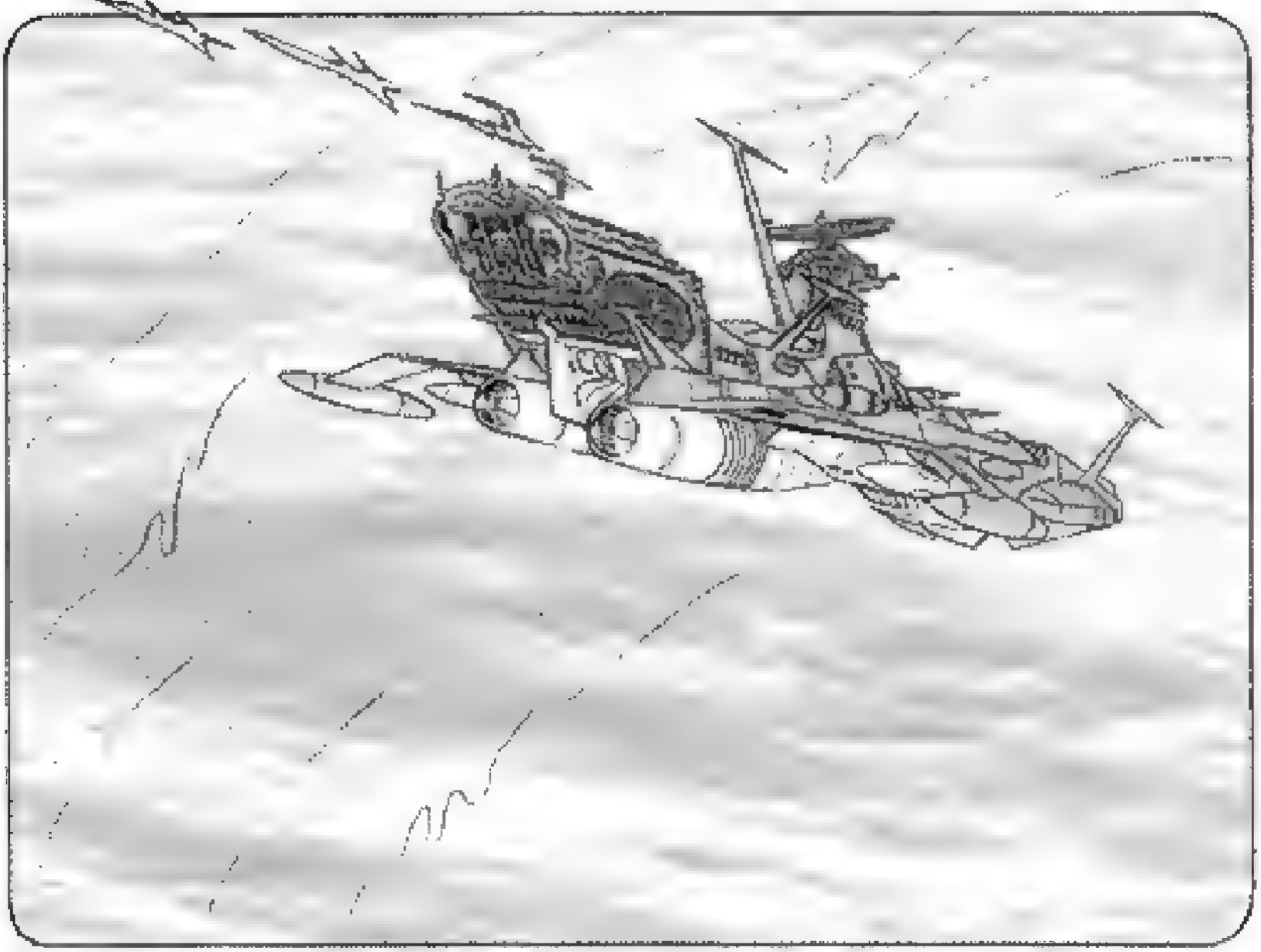
THE FACT THAT CAPTAIN HARLOCK'S SHIP HAD JUST THUMBED ITS NOSE AT EARTH'S OPPRESSORS SEEMED LIKE A MIRACLE TO THE UNDERDWELLERS OF MEGALOPOLIS. WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD INSPIRE THEM TO DO MORE THAN JUST STAND AND GAPE, HOWEVER, WAS ANOTHER MATTER ALTOGETHER. THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME CAPTAIN HARLOCK EVER HOISTED HIS BANNER -- EVEN THOUGH, AS YOU NOW KNOW, IT WAS IN HIS OWN FUTURE.

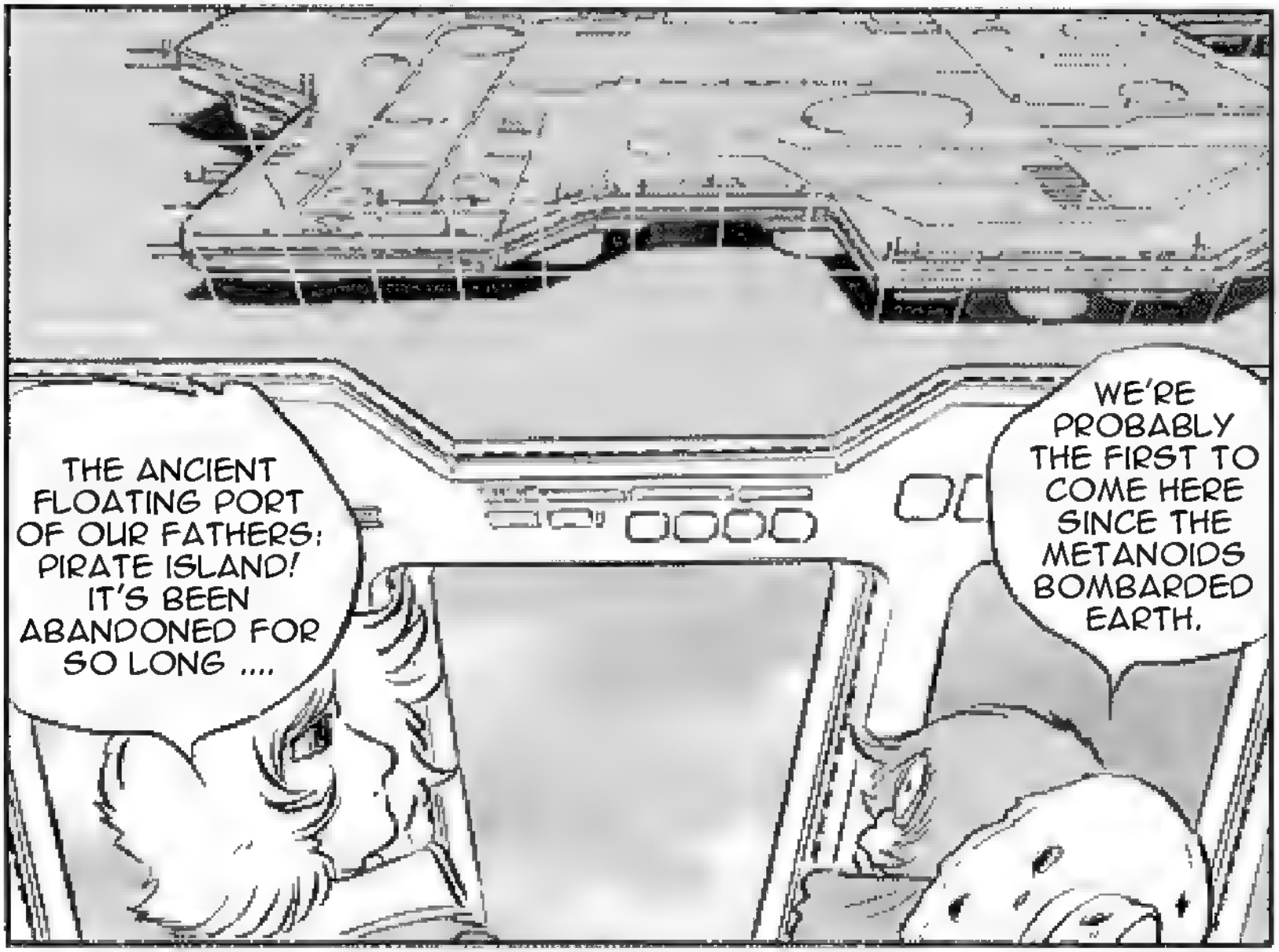
IT'S THE SKULL AND CROSSBONES! IT'S CAPTAIN HARLOCK!!!

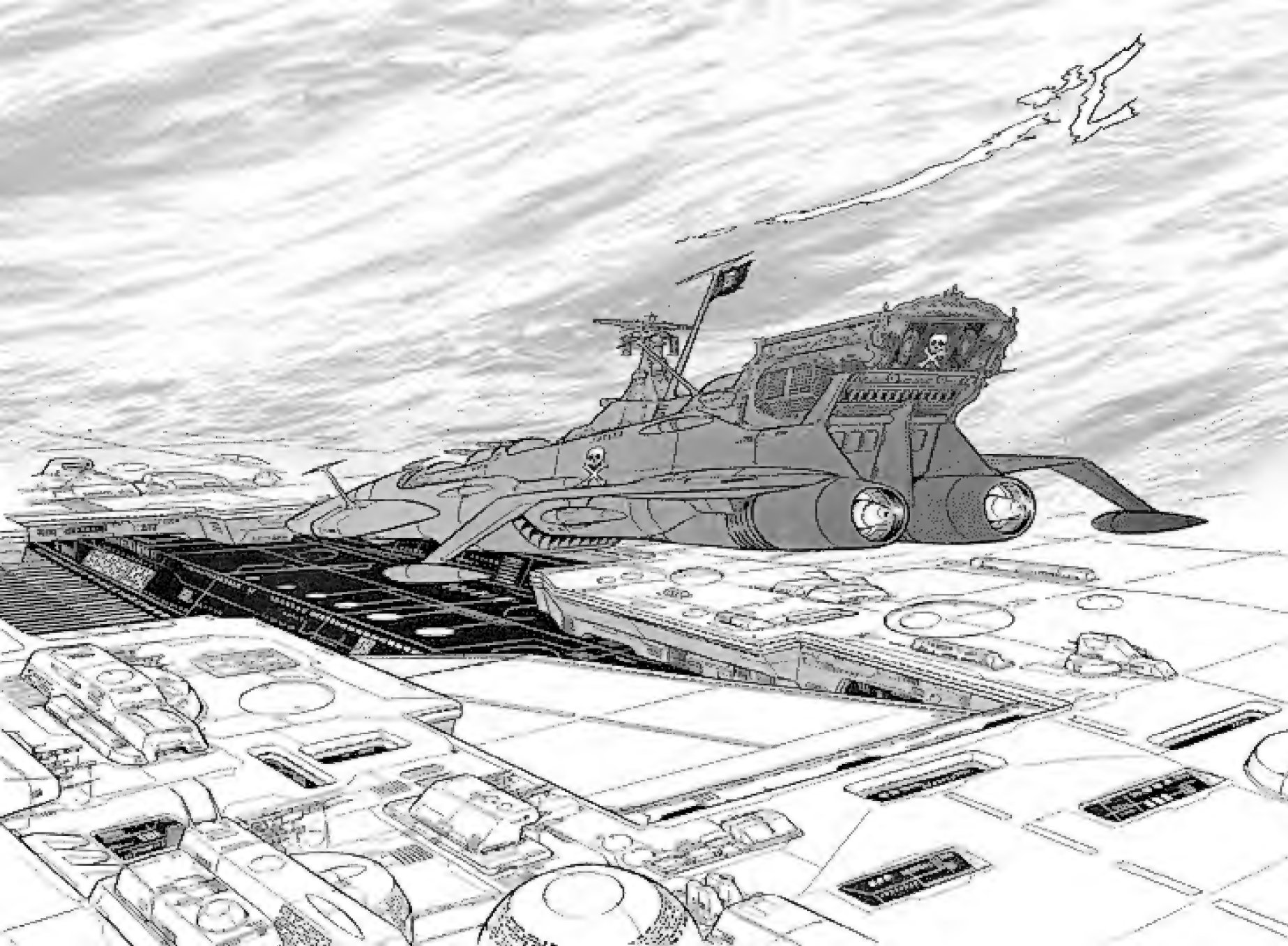
NOW IF THEY'LL DO MORE THAN JUST STAND THERE AND STARE.

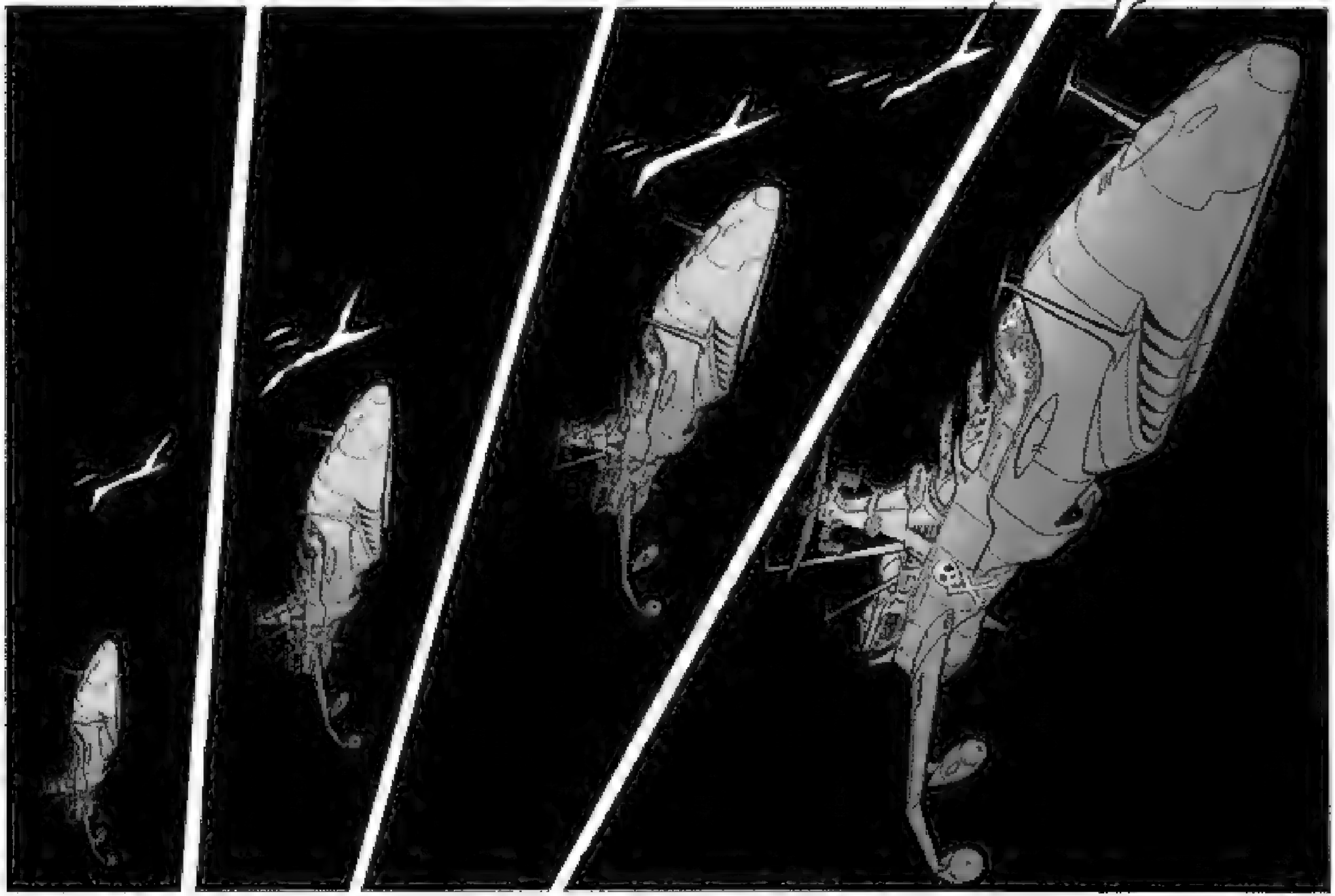
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE DRAWN QUITE AN AUDIENCE DOWN THERE.

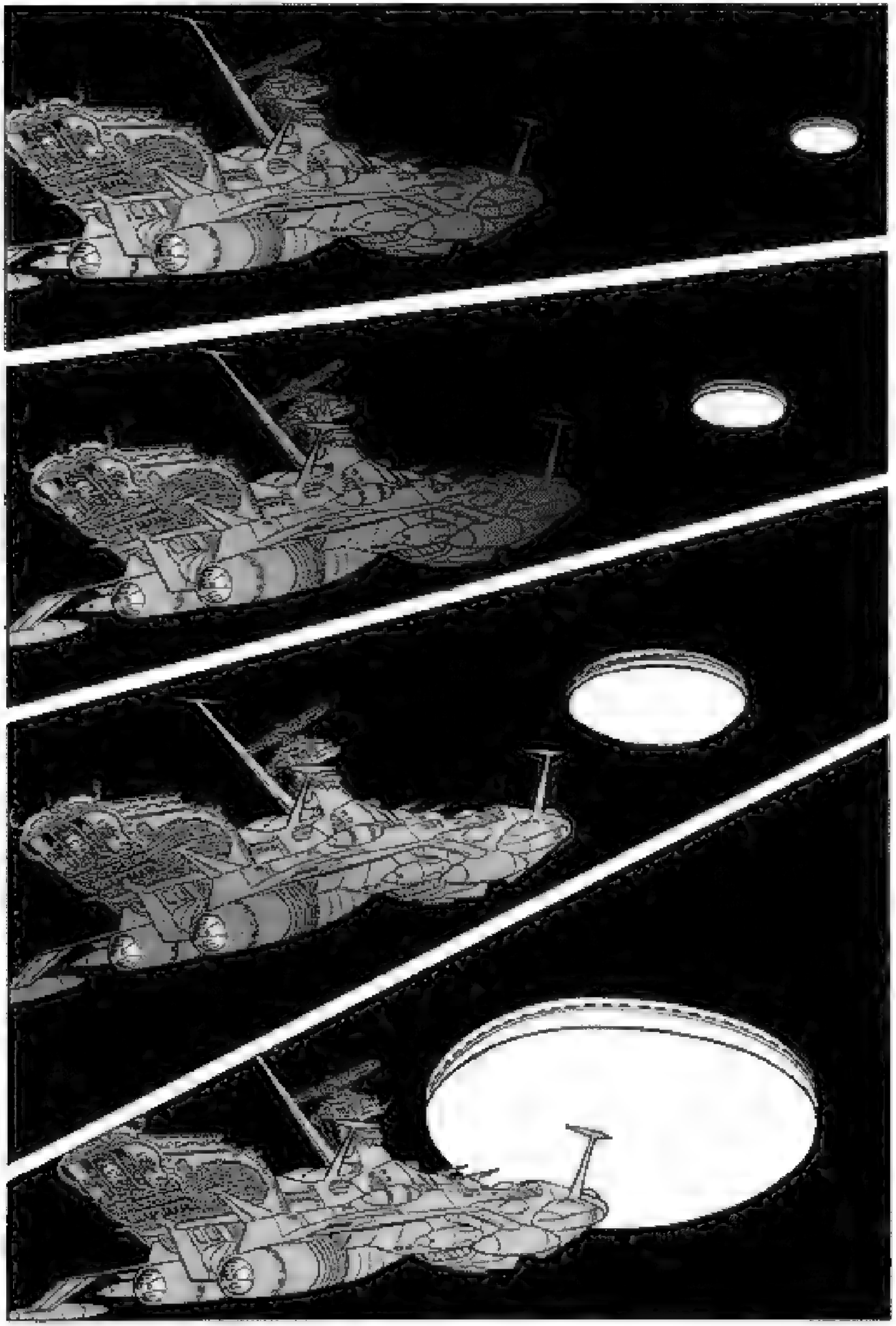

I CAN'T HELP BUT WISH THAT MIIME AND OUR FATHERS COULD BE HERE, TOO.
YEAH .... LOOK AT THE OCEAN! IT'S STILL SO BLUE!
I THINK IT KNOWS WHERE IT'S GOING. THE PLACE WHERE DAD'S DAGGER WAS FORGED BY YOUR FATHER: PIRATE ISLAND.
HEY -- DID SET A COURSE? I DIDN'T! THE SHIP'S FLYING ITSELF!

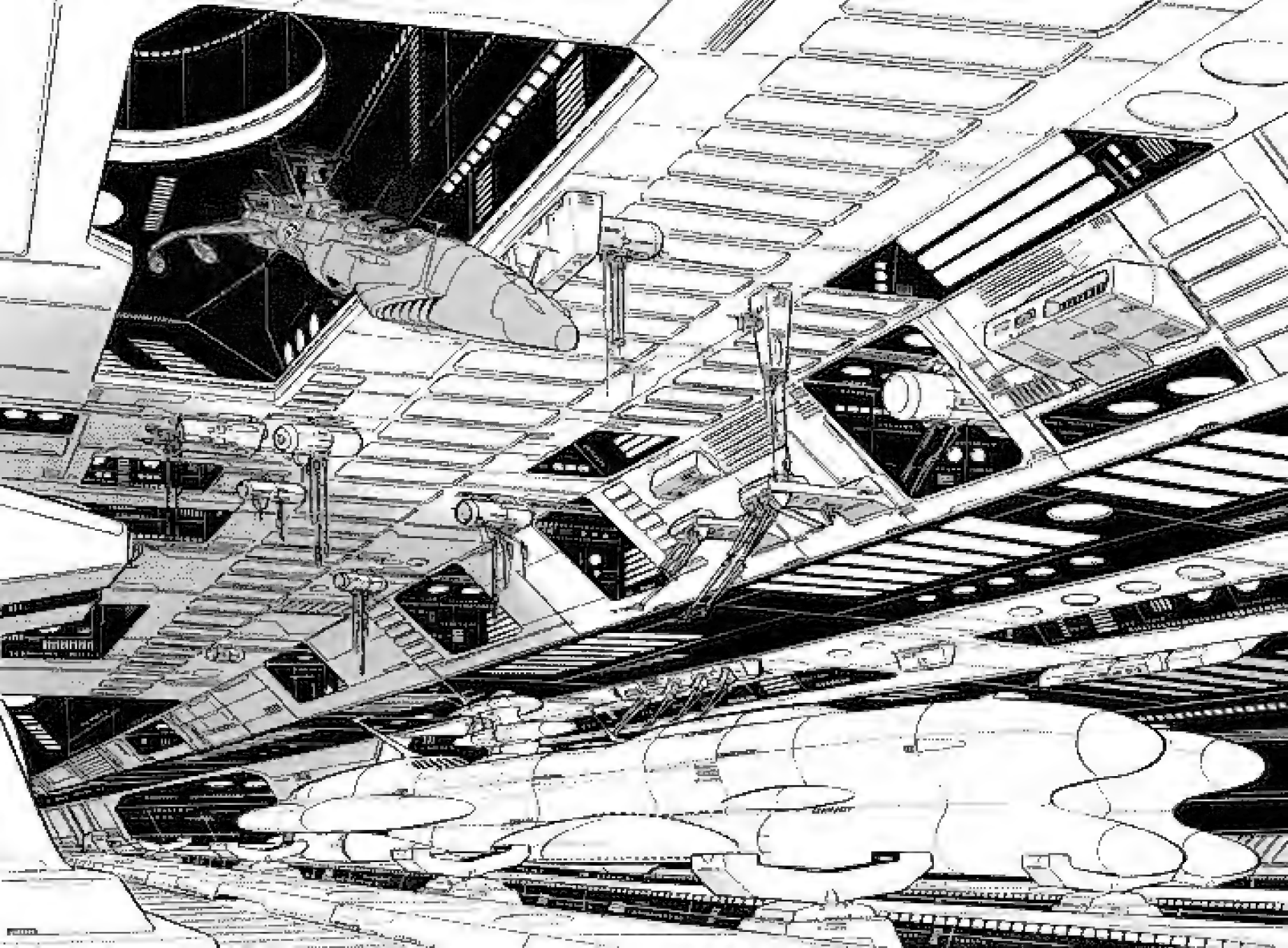



THE ANCIENT FLOATING PORT OF OUR FATHERS: PIRATE ISLAND! IT'S BEEN ABANDONED FOR SO LONG ....
WE'RE PROBABLY THE FIRST TO COME HERE SINCE THE METANOIDS BOMBARDED EARTH.

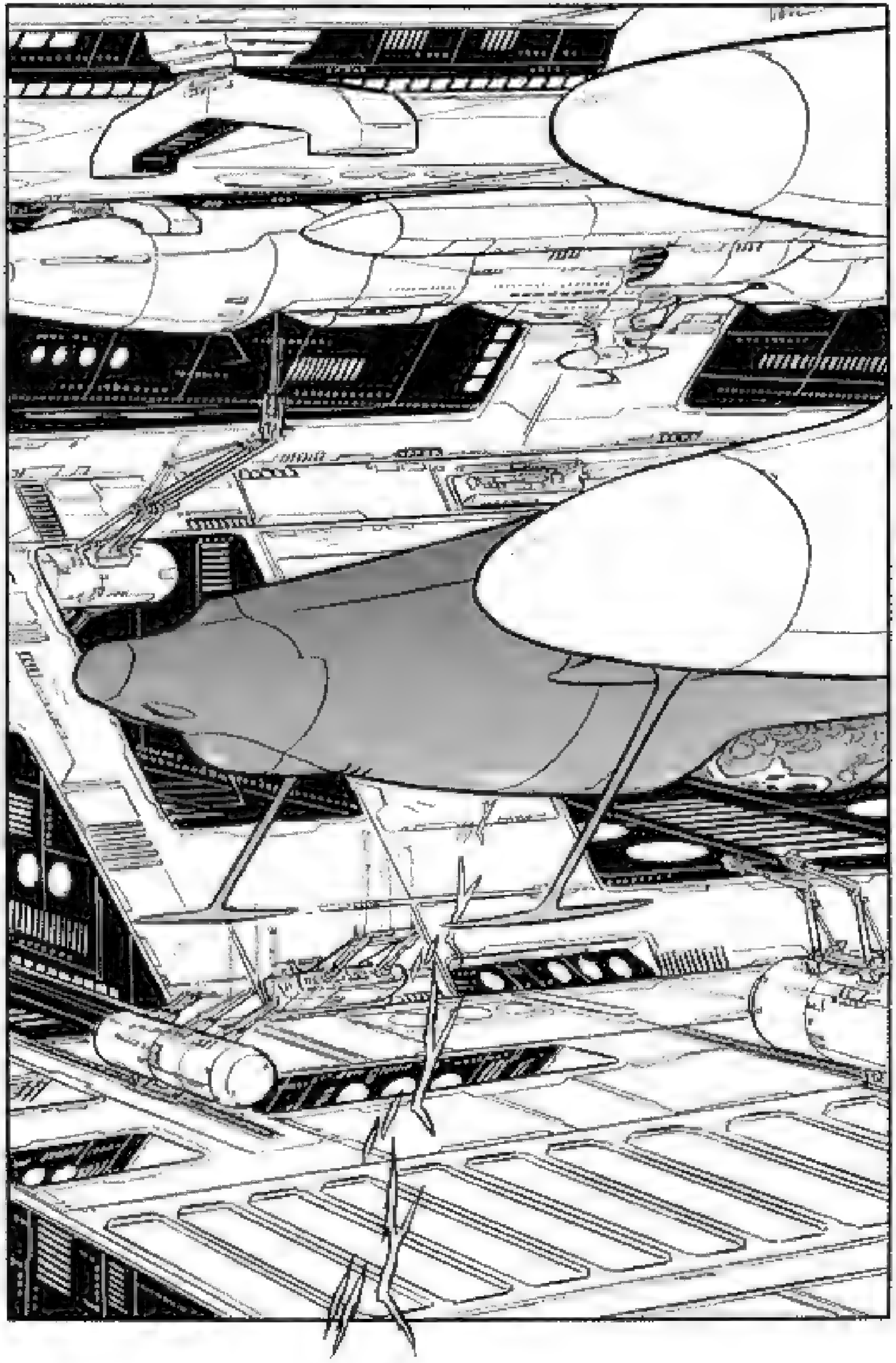


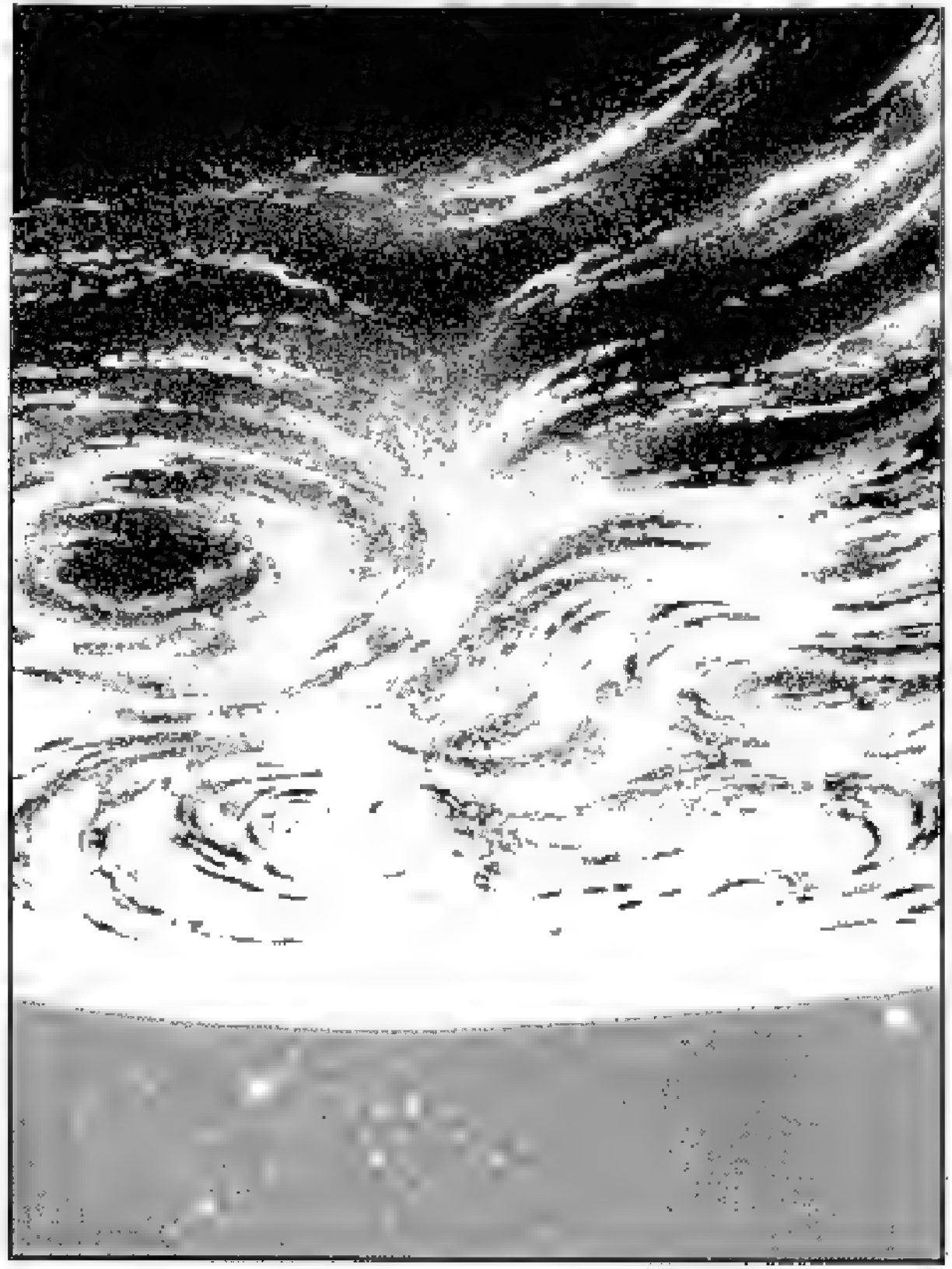






EARTH IS ONE OF THE FEW WORLDS THAT EXISTS IN ALL OF THE RINGS OF TIME. VALHALLA IS ANOTHER. THERE IS A THIRD WHOSE NAME IS UNKNOWN - AT LEAST IN HUMAN TONGUES - THAT ALSO PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN THESE UNIVERSAL DESTINIES. IT IS THE HOME WORLD OF THE METANOIDS -- AND ITS RULER, DARK QUEEN, WILL COME IN PERSON TO OUR GALAXY, TO LEAD HER PEOPLE IN THEIR TERRIBLE PURPOSE. WOTAN, OF COURSE, REMAINS IGNORANT OF THIS ....





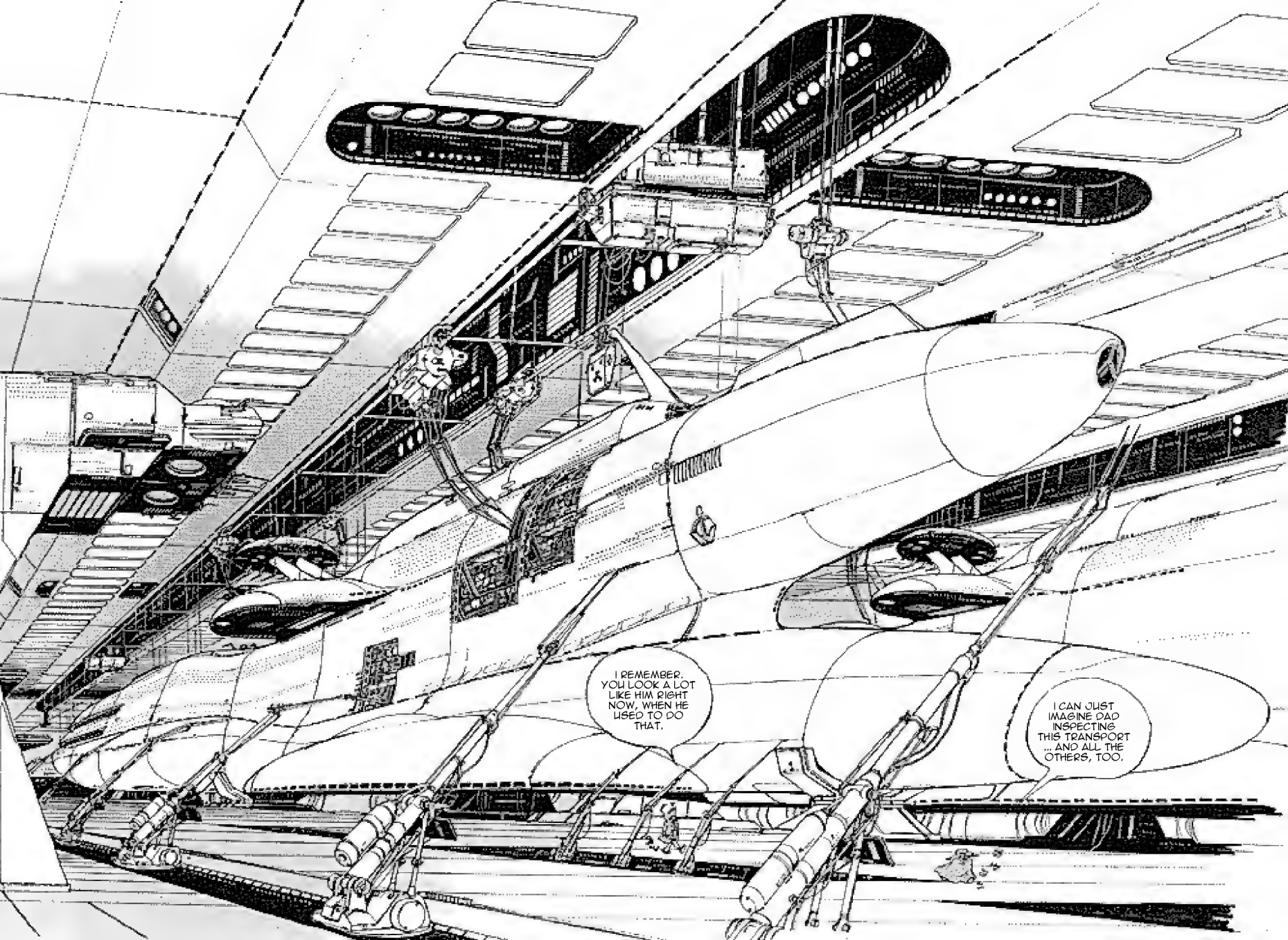
THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE, WE WERE STILL CHILDREN.
IT'S A GOOD THING OUR FAMILIES BUILT ALL OF THEIR BASES ACCORDING TO THE SAME GENERAL PLAN. OTHERWISE IT'D BE TOO EASY TO GET LOST.

EVERYTHING'S STILL HERE. EVERY SHIP IS STILL IN ITS BIRTH. I WONDER WHY NOBODY THOUGHT TO COME HERE AND TAKE THEM TO ESCAPE EARTH?

THOSE PIGS PROBABLY DIDN'T WANT TO, AND WOULDN'T LET THE OTHERS.

YEAH ....

DESPITE THE DUST, EVERY SHIP IS IN TOP NOTCH SHAPE. IT'S A SHAME -- A REAL SHAME.


I REMEMBER. YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE HIM RIGHT NOW, WHEN HE USED TO DO THAT.
I CAN JUST IMAGINE DAD INSPECTING THIS TRANSPORT ... AND ALL THE OTHERS, TOO.

WHAT?

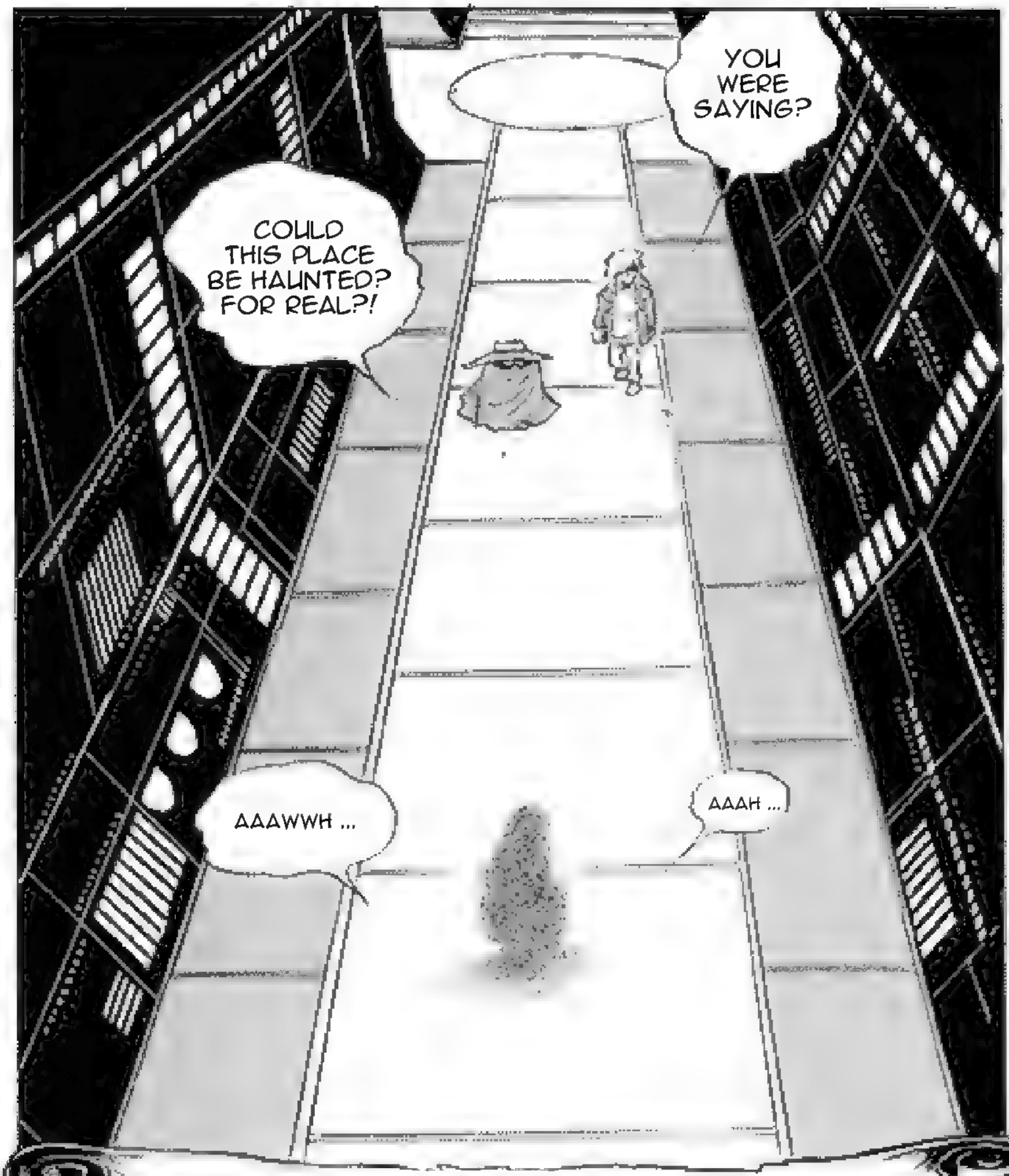
HEY, TOCHIRO?

I FEEL LIKE SOMEBODY'S WATCHING US. I DON'T KNOW WHO OR FROM WHERE.

YEAH ... I'VE KINDA FELT THE SAME WAY EVER SINCE WE CAME IN HERE.

WHATEVER IT IS, IT FEELS MORE LIKE A GHOST ... LOTS OF 'EM ... AND THEY'RE ALL CRYING. THAT'S WEIRD. I WONDER WHY.

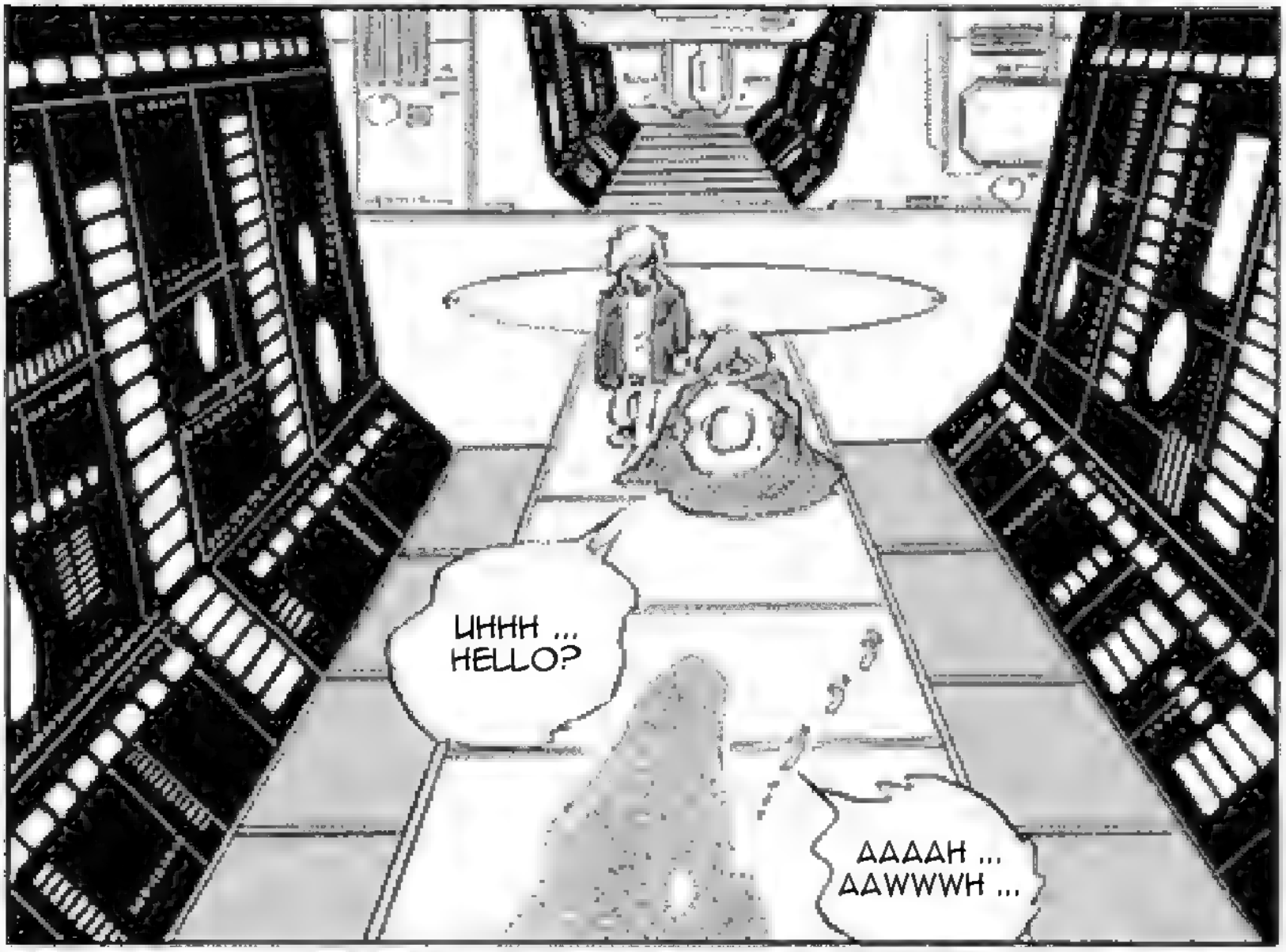
THIS BASE HAS BEEN DESERTED FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS, HARLOCK, SO ... ?



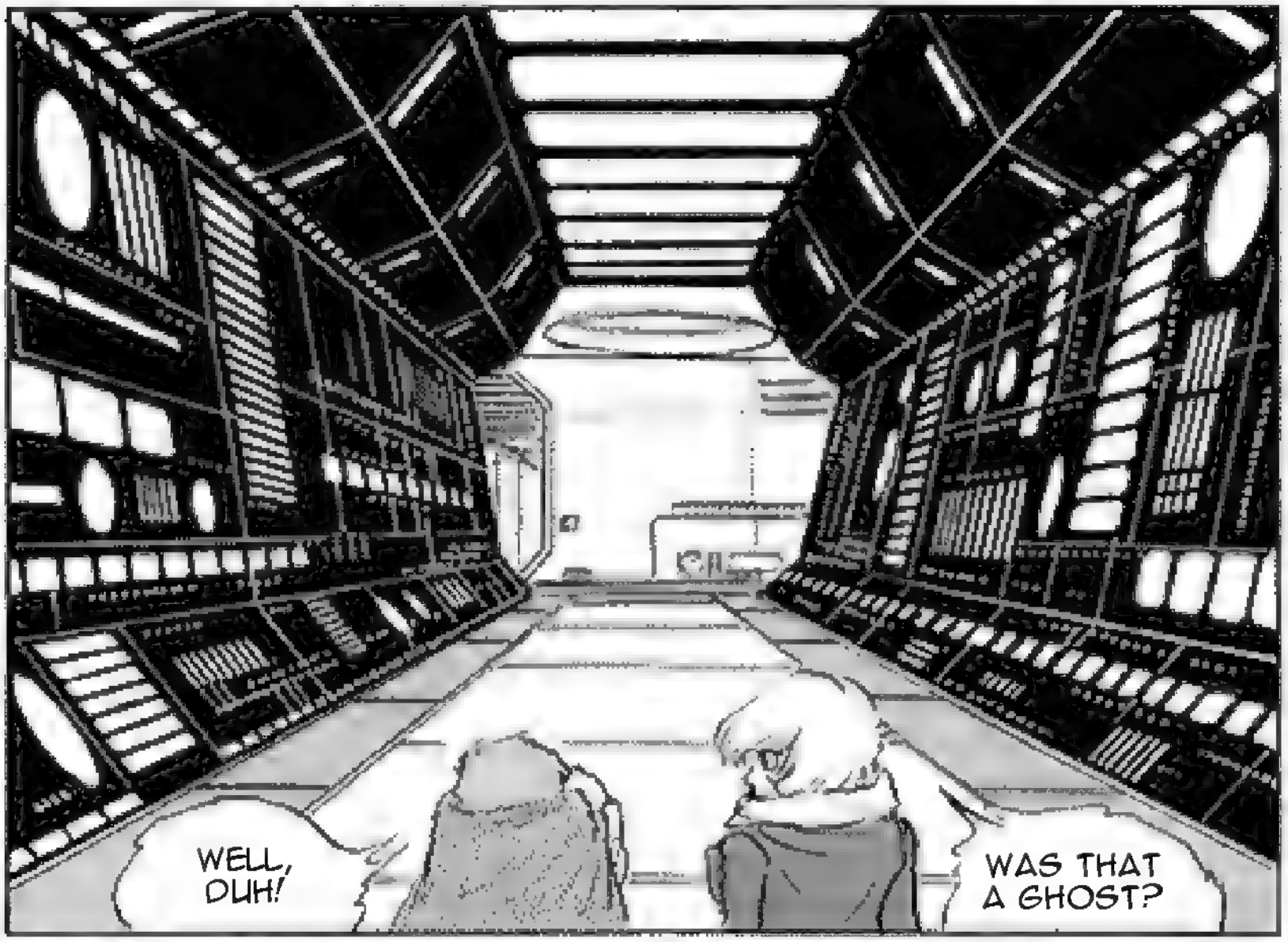
THERE ARE SOME THINGS IN THE UNIVERSE WHOSE EXISTENCE CANNOT BE PROVEN BY ANY KNOWN LAW OR PRACTICE OF SCIENCE. THEY MUST BE ACCEPTED "AS IS." THIS IS THE REALM OF THE METAPHYSICAL, WHERE FAITH IS A NECESSARY SUBSTITUTE FOR HARD EVIDENCE. BOTH YOUNG HARLOCK AND HIS FRIEND TOCHIRO HAVE LONG BELIEVED IN THE METAPHYSICAL. THAT IS WHY NEITHER OF THEM ARE TOO SURPRISED TO APPARENTLY DISCOVER THAT THE LONG-ABANDONED PIRATES' ISLAND ON EARTH MIGHT NOW BE HAUNTED. THEY ACCEPTED THE SITUATION "AS IS."

Götterdämmerung

Ring 66 – The Cry of the Phoenix


UHHH ...
HELLO?
AAAAH ...
AAWWWH ...

IT
VANISHED!


WELL, DUH!
WAS THAT A GHOST?

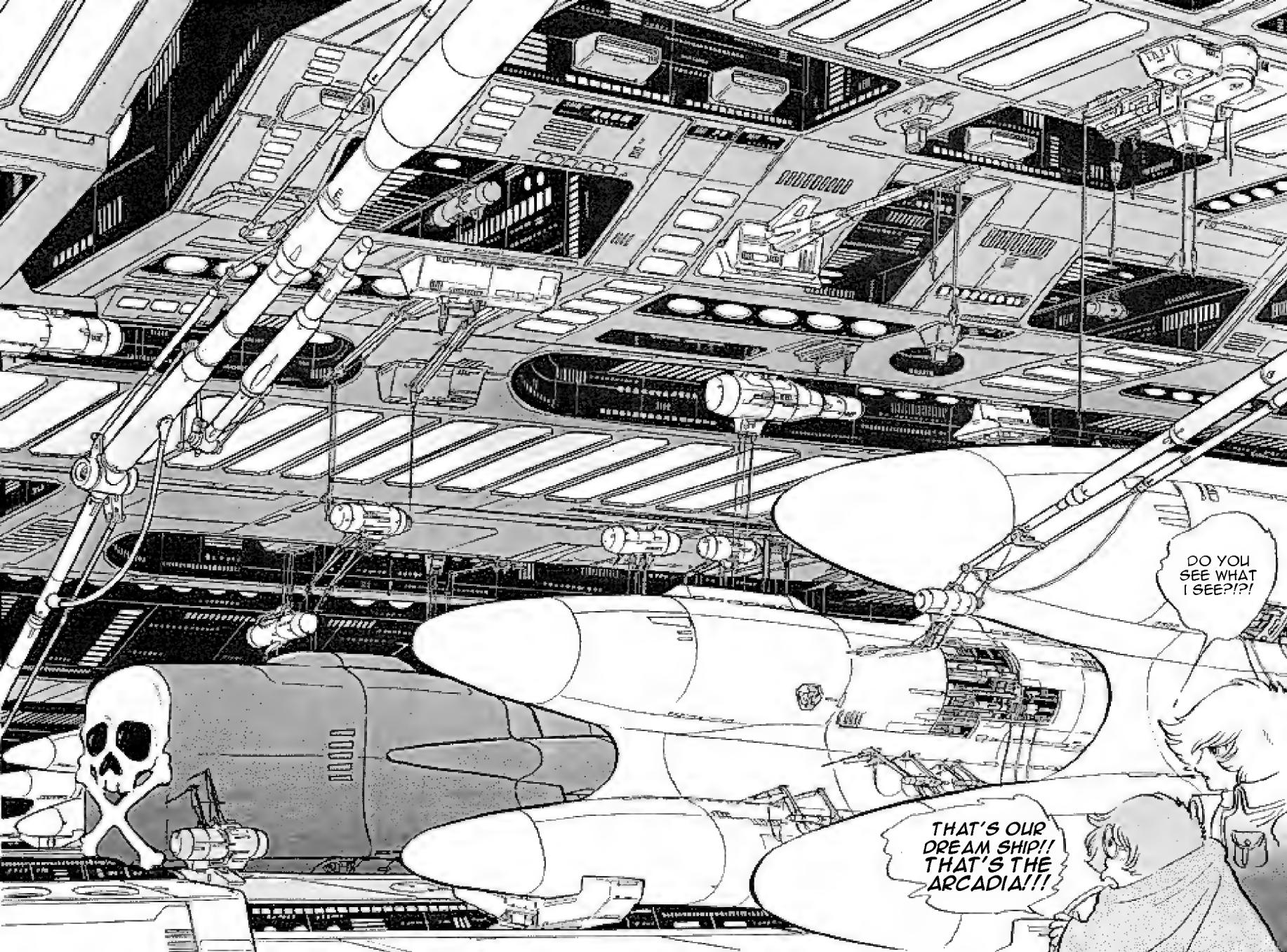
IT'S SAD, IN A WAY. THIS PLACE HAS BEEN ABANDONED LONG ENOUGH FOR GHOSTS TO COME LIVE HERE.
I'M NOT SURPRISED. WITH SO MANY MEMORIES FROM ALL THE YEARS OUR FAMILIES HAVE SPENT HERE ....

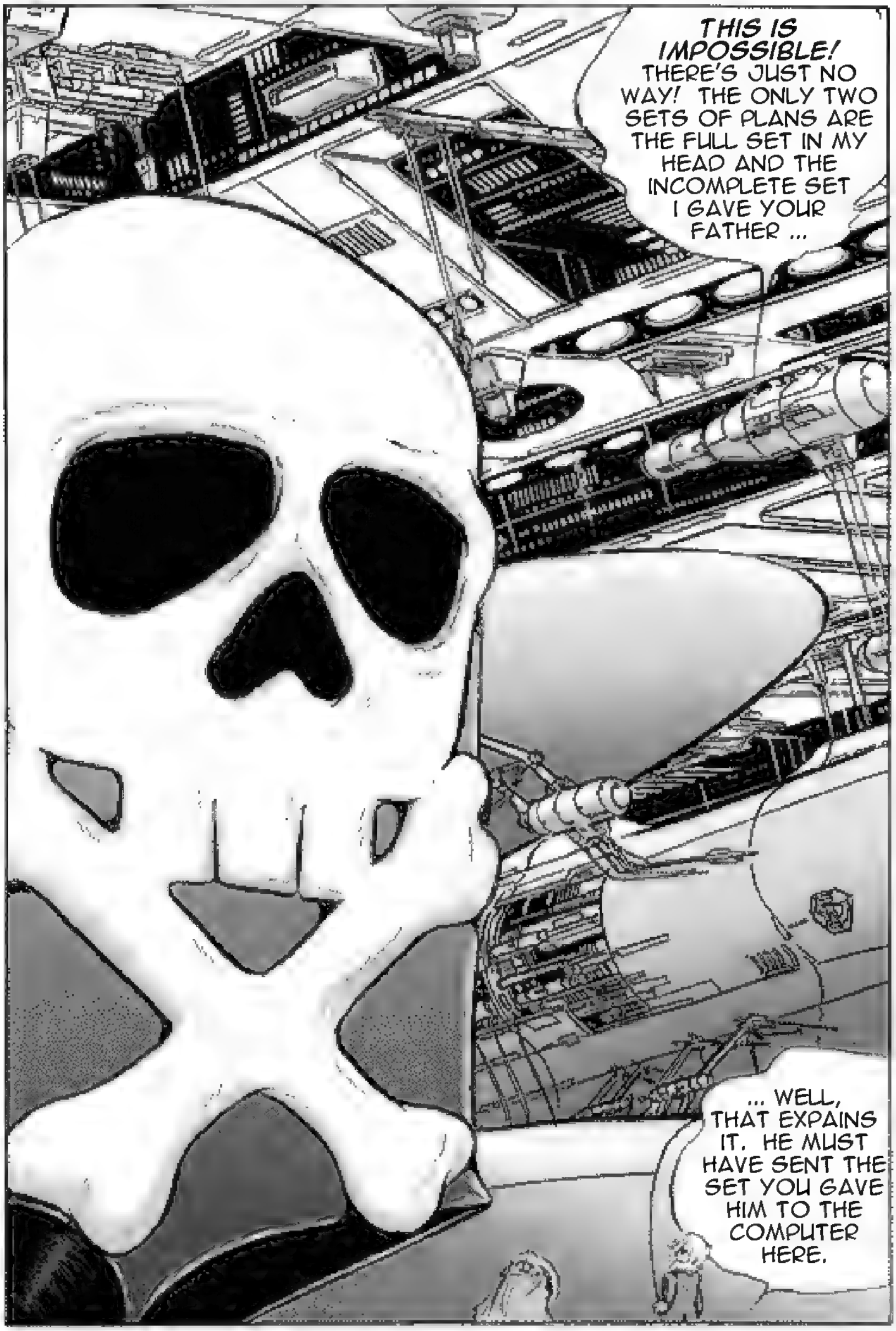
C'MON. LET'S GET WHAT WE NEED AND MOVE ON.

IT'S LIKE SOMEBODY WANTS US TO -- WHAT THE FUCK?!

THAT ARROW WASN'T HERE BEFORE. I'M SURE OF IT!

HEY, WHAT'S THIS?


DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?!?!
THAT'S OUR DREAM SHIP!! THAT'S THE ARCADIA!!!


THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! THERE'S JUST NO WAY! THE ONLY TWO SETS OF PLANS ARE THE FULL SET IN MY HEAD AND THE INCOMPLETE SET I GAVE YOUR FATHER ...
... WELL, THAT EXPAINS IT. HE MUST HAVE SENT THE SET YOU GAVE HIM TO THE COMPUTER HERE.

THAT SON-OF-A-BITCH! I WANTED TO BUILD IT MYSELF!!!

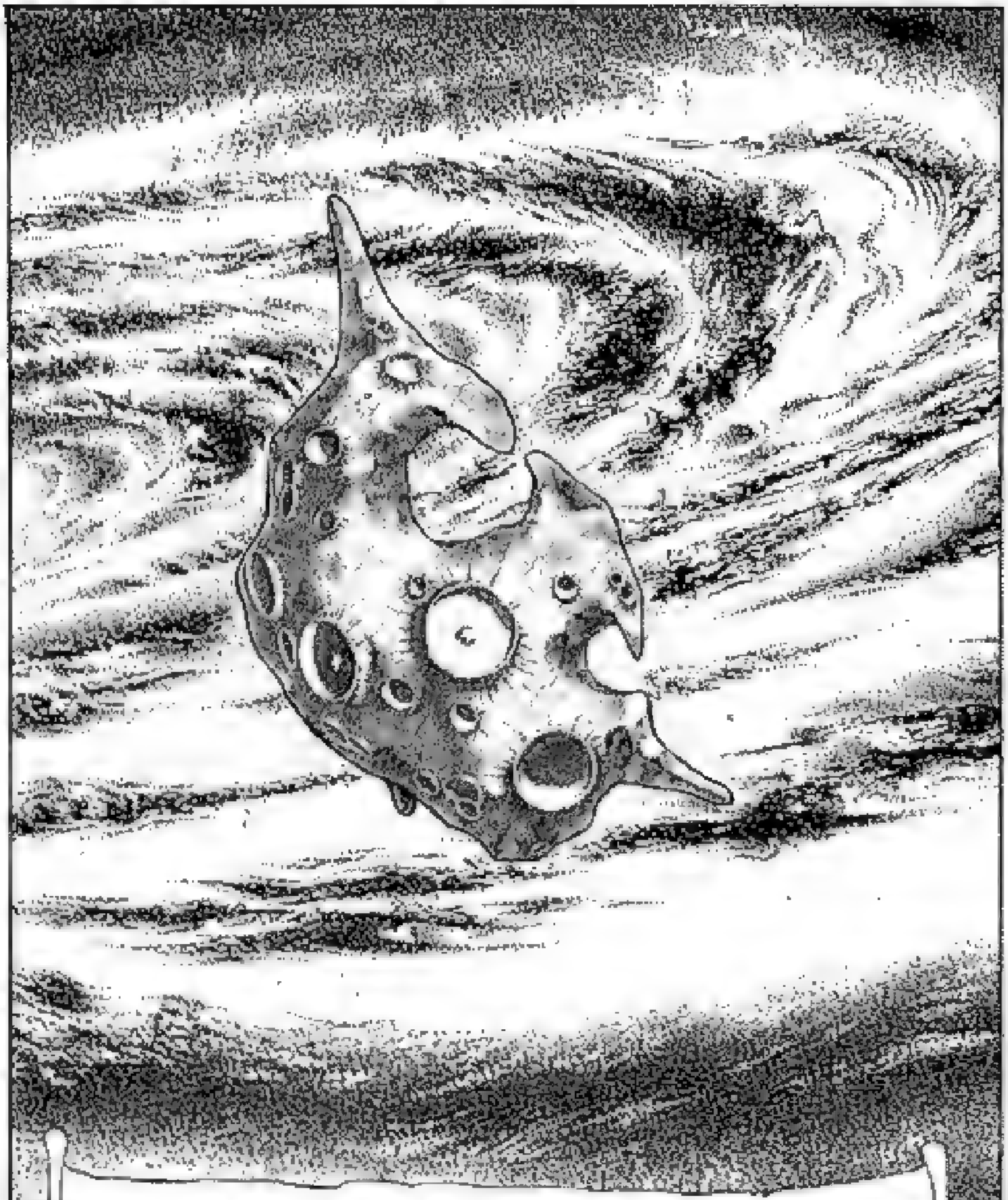
HE AND YOUR DAD MUST HAVE DONE THIS ... AS ONE LAST FAVOR TO US.

... AND I WAS ALWAYS SAYING HOW I WANTED TO BUILD THE *ARCADIA* ON EARTH!

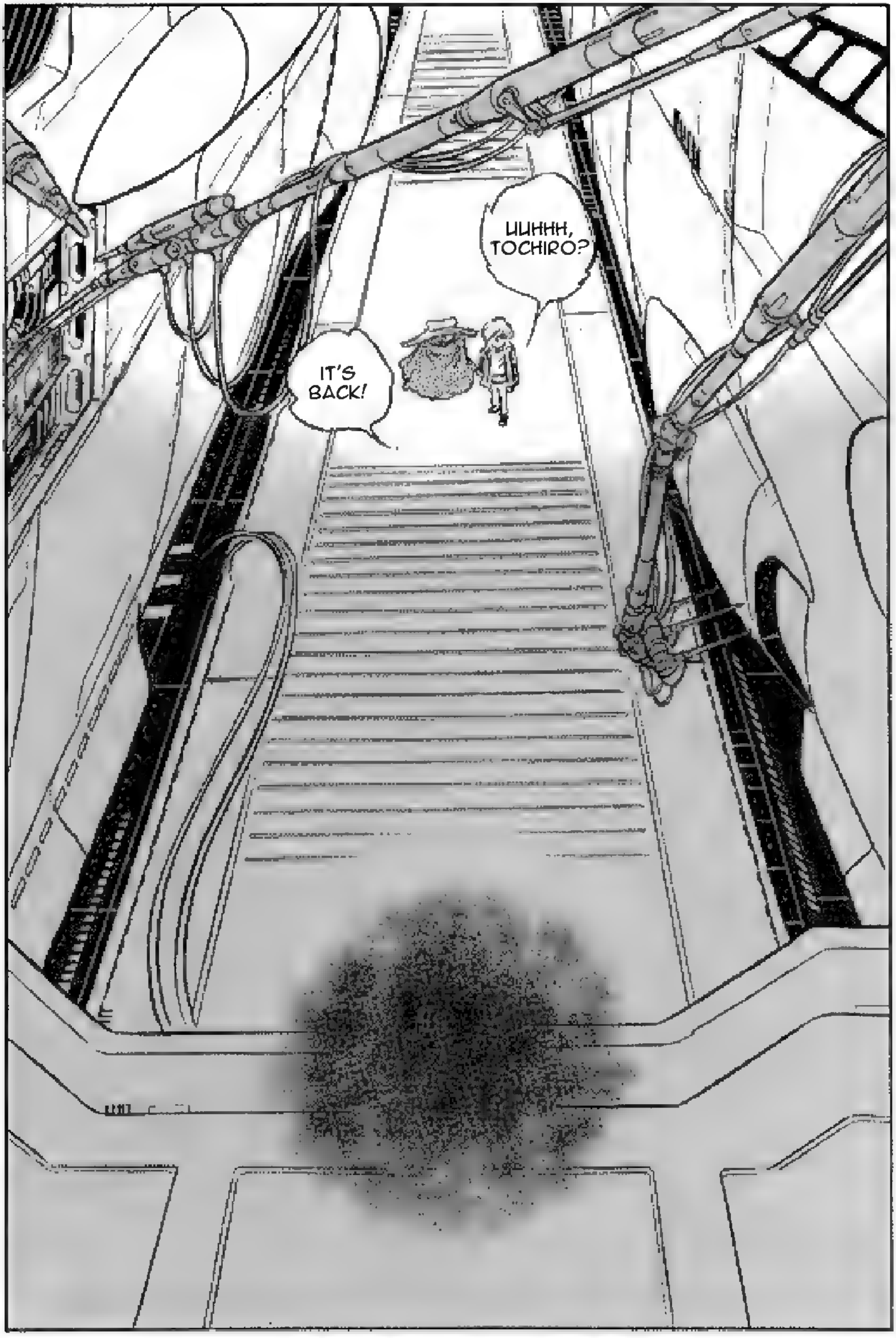
THEY MUST HAVE KNOWN WE'D COME HERE SOONER OR LATER ...

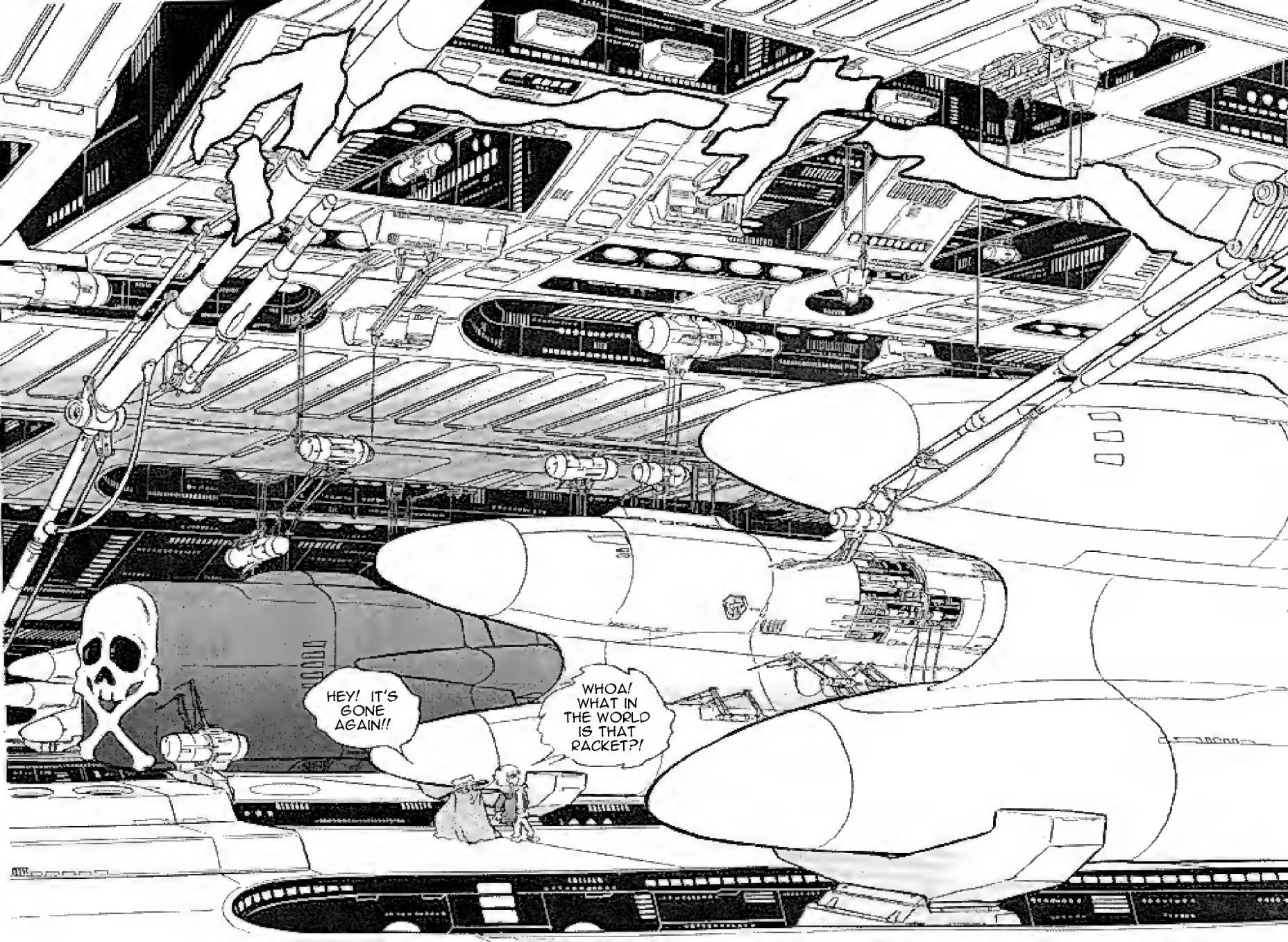
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! THE AUTOMATED SHIPYARD HERE BUILT THIS ALONG THE SPECS OF MY OLD PLANS!

YOUR DAD AND MINE MUST HAVE TRANSMITTED THEM HERE WHILE WE WERE LAYING OVER AT THE PIRATE'S ISLE ASTEROID. IT'S THE ONLY LOGICAL EXPLANATION!

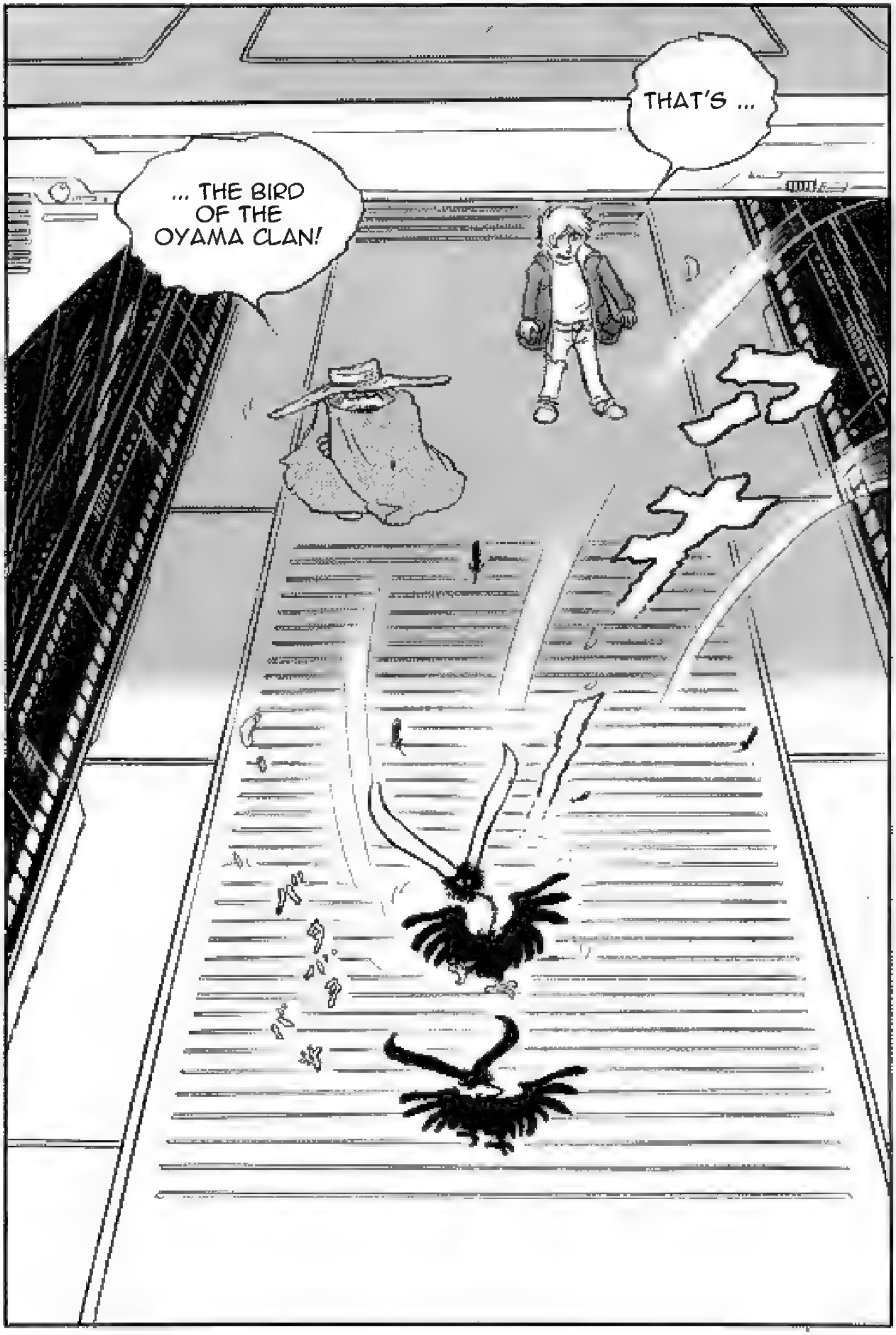


NEITHER HARLOCK NOR TOCHIRO WERE YET AWARE OF JUST HOW THE FULFILLMENT OF THEIR DESTINY WAS BEING AIDED BY MIIME, BACK ON THE PLANET RHINE. IT WAS DUE LARGELY TO THIS THAT HARLOCK SUCCEEDED AGAINST ALL ODDS IN HIS YOUTH. IN DUE TIME, SHE WOULD BE REUNITED WITH HIM ... AND ONCE AGAIN TAKE HER PLACE AS THE COMPANION OF THE MAN SHE HAD KNOWN SINCE HIS YOUTH. SHE TOO HAD HER OWN FUTURE DESTINY - TO BE THE LAST OF HER KIND.


UUHHH, TOCHIRO?
IT'S BACK!


HEY! IT'S GONE AGAIN!!
WHOA! WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT RACKET?!

HARLOCK! I KNOW THAT BIRD!
A HATCHING BABY BIRD? BUT FROM WHERE--
THERE IS THE TALE OF THE MOVING PEN -- THAT WHAT HAS ONCE BEEN WRITTEN CANNOT BE UNWRITTEN. THE PERSON WHO MADE THIS SAYING FAILED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT ONE CAN ALWAYS GET A NEW SHEET OF PAPER AND BEING AGAIN. SO IT IS WITH THE REWOVEN TALE OF CAPTAIN HARLOCK. THE LAST PIECE OF HIS STORY NOW FALLS INTO PLACE ON THIS NEW PAGE ....

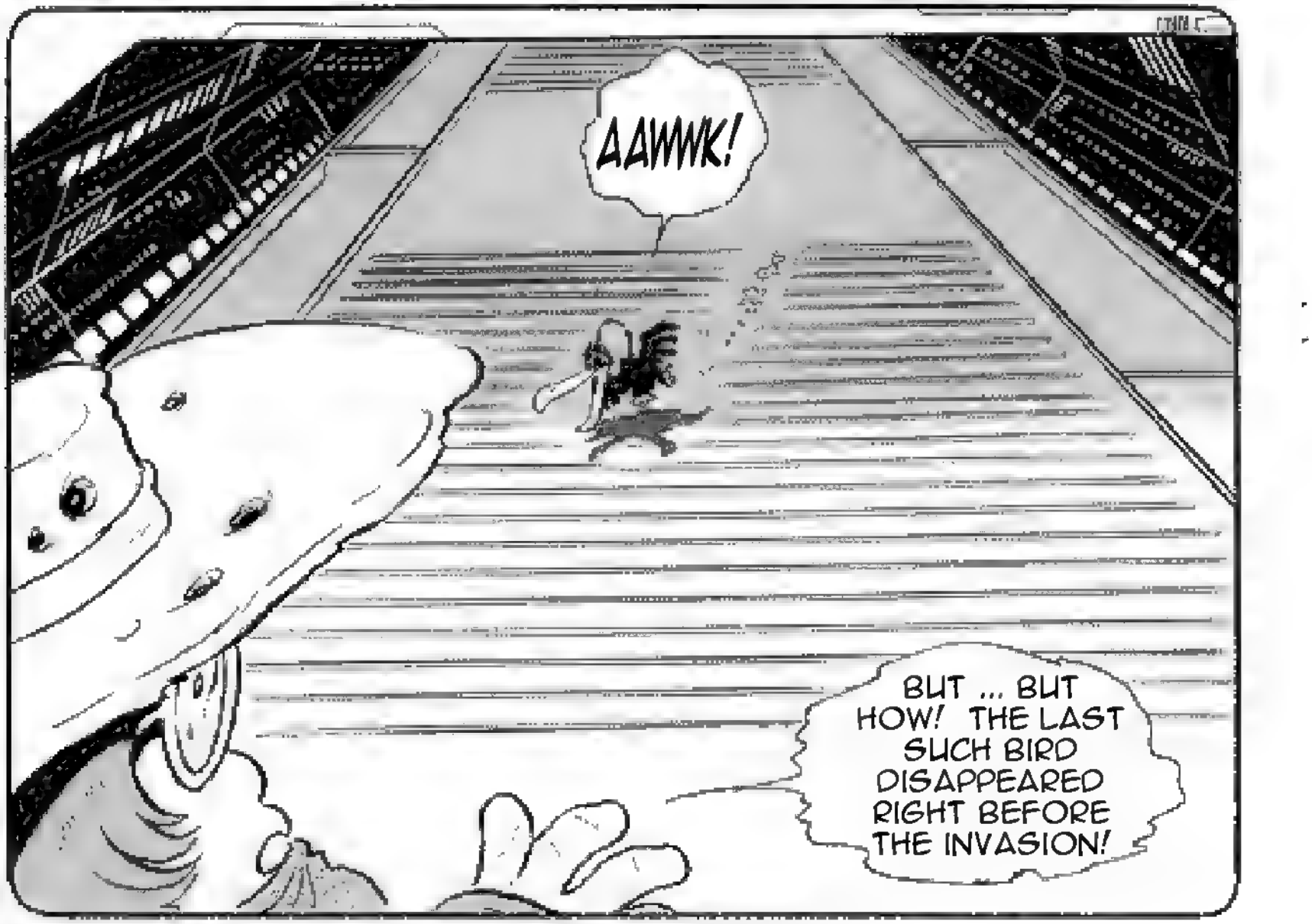

THAT'S ...
... THE BIRD OF THE OYAMA CLAN!

AAWWK!

AWK!
AWK!
AWK!

AWK!
AWK!
AWK!
AWK!

AWK!
AWK!
AAWWK!
AWK!


AAWWK!
BUT ... BUT HOW! THE LAST SUCH BIRD DISAPPEARED RIGHT BEFORE THE INVASION!

HEY, BUDDY! YOU ALL ALONE? WELL, WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

AAWWK!

WELL ... IT JUST WOULDN'T BE THE SAME IF THE OYAMA HEIR DIDN'T HAVE A NEW FAMILY BIRD.

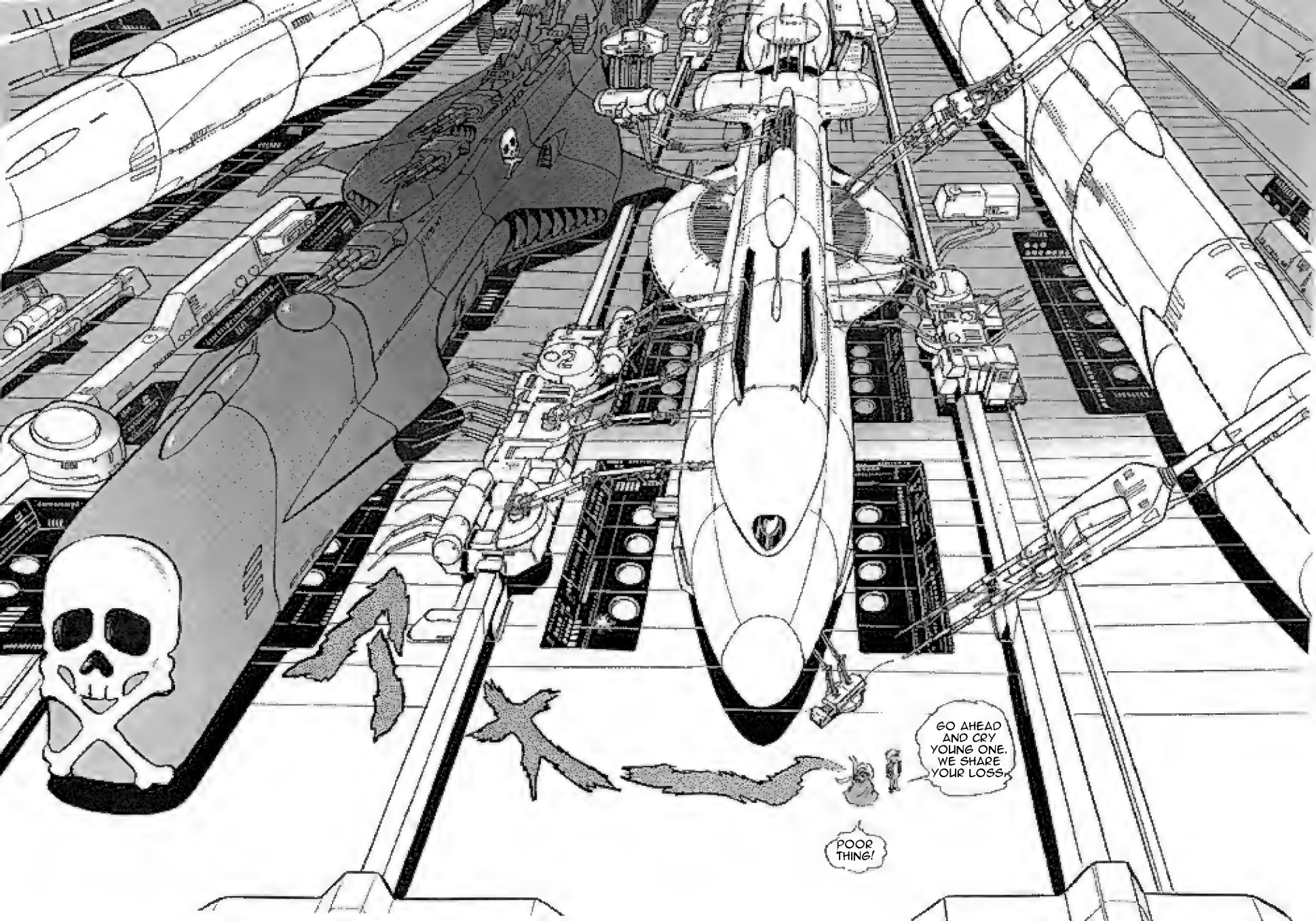
AWK!!

OH, YOU UGLY -- I'M SO GLAD YOU SHOWED UP! I COULD JUST KISS YOU!

... AND ALL IT HAD WERE THE GHOSTS OF THIS PLACE FOR COMPANY!

IT ... IT MUST HAVE BEEN PREGNANT, AND KNOWN IT COULDN'T MAKE THE TRIP WITH US, SO IT STAYED BEHIND, GUARDING ITS EGG UNTIL ... UNTIL ... *SNIF*

WHA--? HEY, LOOK UP THERE! THAT MUST HAVE BEEN MY DAD'S OLD BIRD! THE ONE THAT DISAPPEARED WHENEVER WE LEFT THIS PLACE!


GO AHEAD AND CRY YOUNG ONE. WE SHARE YOUR LOSS.
POOR THING!

AOOOO...

THE CRY OF THE NEW YOUNG BIRD OF THE OYAMA CLAN ECHOED ACROSS TIME AND SPACE. IT WAS PICKED UP BY MIIME'S ORGAN, AND BECAME A KEY NOTE IN ITS SONG OF POWER ... A SONG THAT STAYED WITH BOTH HARLOCK AND TOCHIRO EVEN AFTER BOTH BECAME THE MEN THAT DESTINY FORETOLD.

YEARS PASSED ... AND YOUNG HARLOCK GREW INTO THE SPACE PIRATE OF LEGEND. TOCHIRO OYAMA BECAME THE GREATEST STARSHIP ENGINEER OF HIS AGE. HARLOCK FOUND AND THEN LOST MAYA, THE WOMAN HE HAD BEEN DESTINED TO JOIN WITH, HOWEVER BRIEFLY. TOCHIRO WAS REUNITED WITH EMERALDAS, AND THEY SHARED MUCH JOY AND MANY ADVENTURES TOGETHER. AT LONG LAST, THOUGH - OR PERHAPS TOO SOON - CAME THE AFFAIR OF THE RHINEGOLD, AND THE PAST CAUGHT UP WITH THE PRESENT. SO ENDS MY TALE, HARLOCK.

TADASHI'S ALREADY IN BED. I THINK HE LEFT US AFTER THE DEATH OF BRUNHILDE.
THANKS, MIIME. I THINK THAT'S THE FIRST TIME ANY OF US HAVE HEARD THE STORY IN FULL.
MAN, BUT HOW THE YEARS HAVE FLOWN!
A TOAST, THEN. TO A PAST WITH NO REGRETS, AND TO A FUTURE WE'VE YET TO FULFILL!
TO A FUTURE WITH NO REGRETS! CHEERS!
TO THE FUTURE!

IT'S FREYA. SHE PLAYS HER ORGAN SO SADLY.

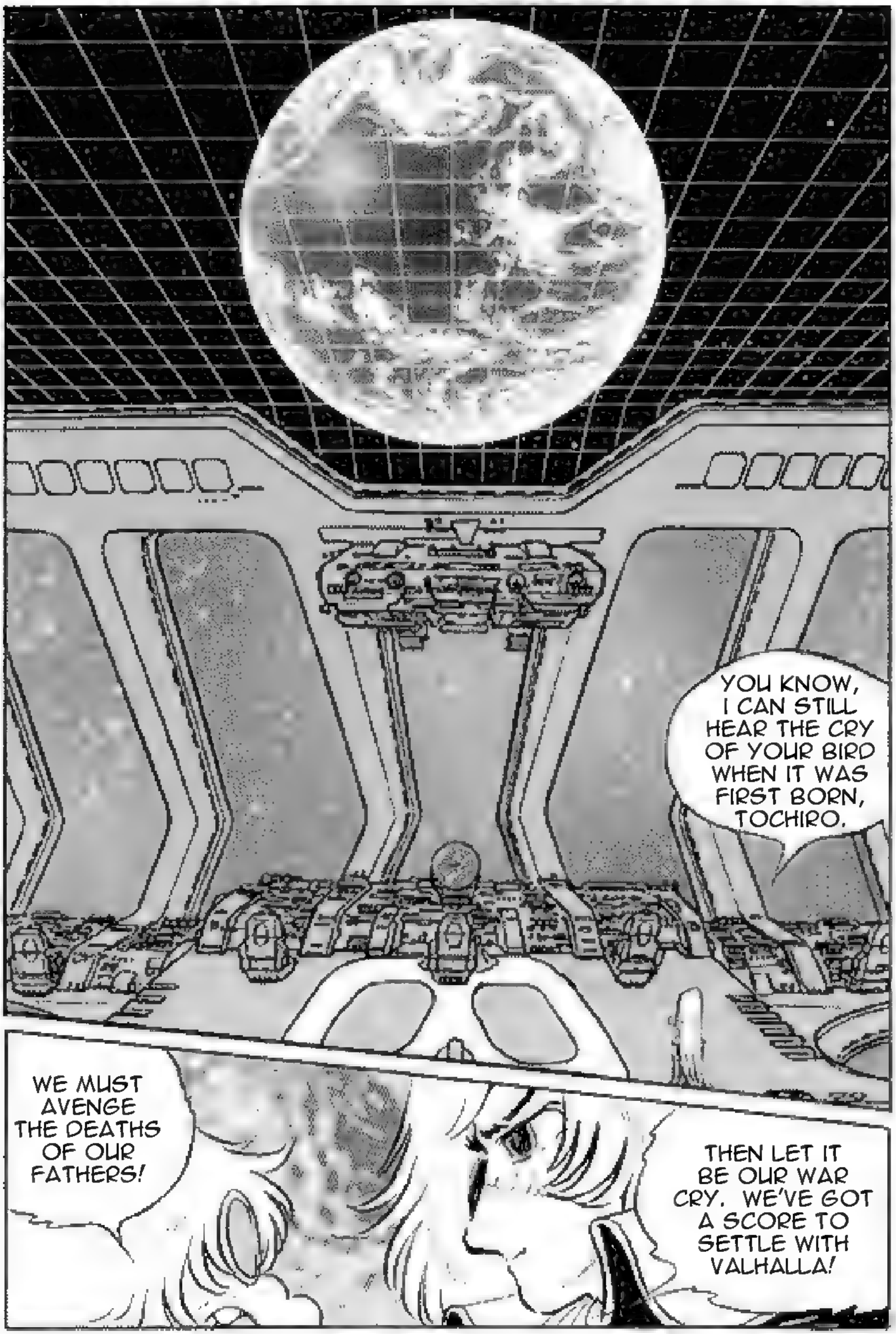
WHAT'S WRONG, MIIME? YOU LOOK WORRIED.

MAYBE SHE KNOWS WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

VALHALLA, THE HOME OF THE GODS ...

YES ... ITS TIME IS ALMOST AT AN END.

WE ARE NOW POISED ON THE THRESHOLD OF GREAT EVENTS.


YOU KNOW, I CAN STILL HEAR THE CRY OF YOUR BIRD WHEN IT WAS FIRST BORN, TOCHIRO.
WE MUST AVENGE THE DEATHS OF OUR FATHERS!
THEN LET IT BE OUR WAR CRY. WE'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH VALHALLA!

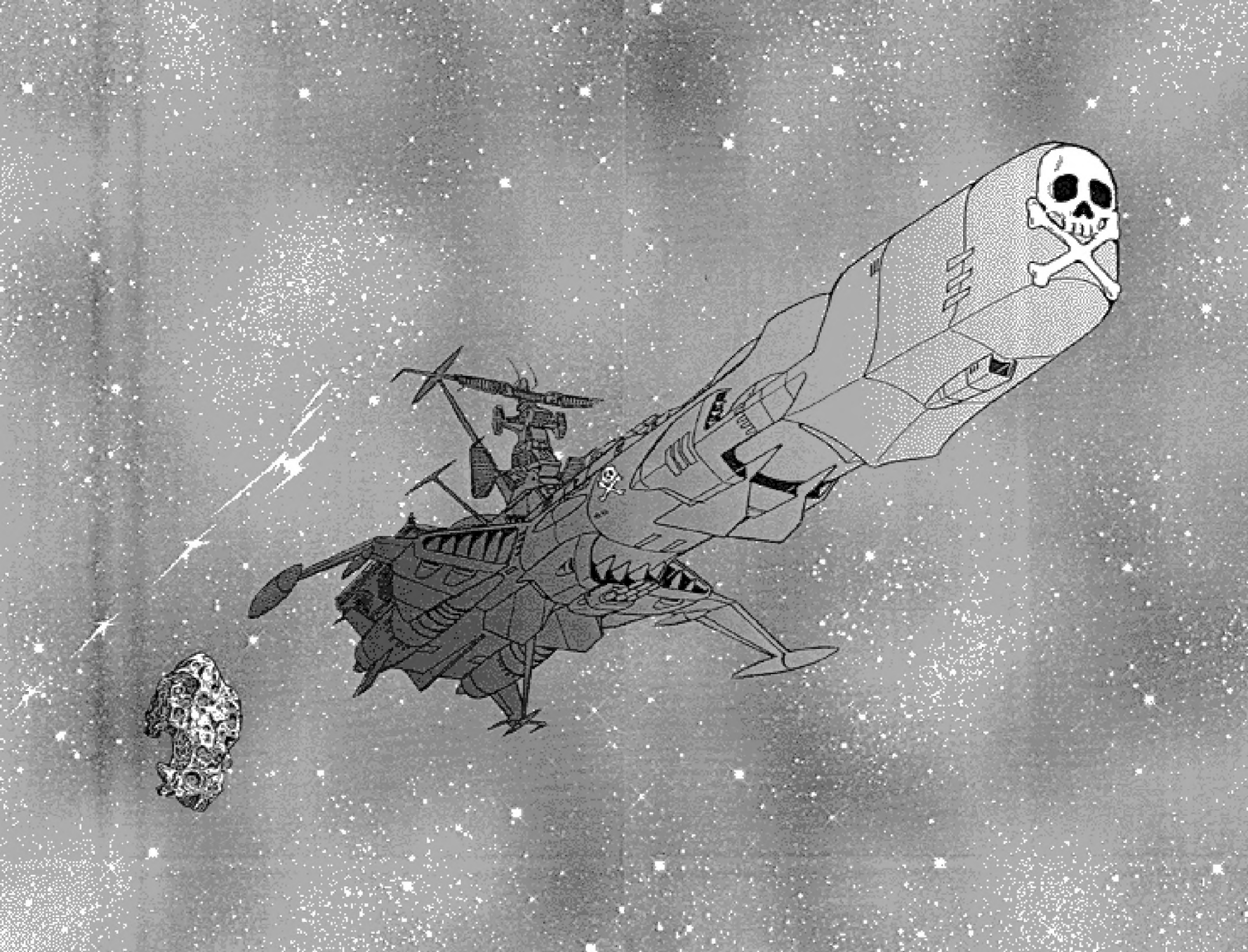
RIGHT NOW IT'S STABLE, SO I DON'T SEE ANY PROBLEMS.

THE WILD CARD IN ALL OF THIS WILL BE THE PLANET RHINE.

OUR ENTIRE CREW HAS VOLUNTEERED TO COME WITH US! SUCH BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN!

AND I'VE GOT THE PIRATES' ISLE ALL RESUPPLED AND READY TO ASSIST US! LET'S DO THIS THING, HARLOCK!!!

ARCADIA!!! LIFT OFF!!!



AND SO THE *ARCADIA* - OR THE "NEW *ARCADIA*," AS SOME MEN NAME IT - SET FORTH FROM THE PIRATES' ISLE ON ITS FINAL VOYAGE TO VALHALLA. ONLY THE SERVANTS OF WOTAN, SUCH AS THE FEW METANOIDS SKULKING ABOUT THE GALAXY'S EDGE IN THEIR PHANTASMA CRUISERS, WERE AWARE OF THIS EVENT. THIS TIME, THE JOLLY ROGER WAS NOT FLYING AS A FLAG OF FREEDOM -- BUT OF REVENGE.

■ To be continued in Götterdämmerung Volume 2